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Kiev Hosts UN Symposium on CIS Security, Disarmament

LD2709203693 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 27 Sep—A United Nations symposium titled "Security, Disarmament, and Confidence Issues in CIS Countries" has opened in Ukraine's capital. The symposium gathered together representatives of leading government and scholarly circles from Western Europe, Asia, the CIS, and the United States. On the Ukrainian side, participants include Vasyl Durdynets, deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council; Boris Tarasyuk, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Borys Paton, president of the Academy of Sciences; Leonid Kosakivskyy, president's representative in Kiev; and other senior officials.

During the first day of the symposium, its participants will look at security issues in the newly independent countries formed as a result of the collapse of the USSR, and the possibility of aid from the international community. They will also discuss problems of modern trends in international relations. Vasyl Durdynets, deputy chairman of our state's parliament, stressed that Ukraine regards its security as an integral part of international security. Durdynets said that Ukraine's stance regarding nuclear disarmament was the focus of world attention and, more often than not, this stance was given ambiguous interpretation. Therefore, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Council reiterated that Ukraine's path toward nonnuclear status, embarked upon in 1990, was purposeful and well considered.

Council of Europe Faces 'Stormy' Session on Minorities

PM2709134793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Igor Melnikov report: "Caps Not Being Thrown in the Air Here"]

[Text] Vienna—Less than one month remains until the opening of the Council of Europe session in Vienna, but it would be something of an exaggeration, to put it mildly, to claim that the Austrian capital is living in expectation of the meeting of the continent's leading statesmen. People here are able to receive guests of any rank and in any numbers and to create conditions for their work with no particular strain: Vienna's own school, rich in traditions, comes into play. But caps will not go flying into the air in this case, since the VIP guests who are coming have not been able recently to boast of special services in the field of European peace, economic prosperity, and observance of human rights.

Is this not why the organizers of the upcoming meeting make no extravagant promises concerning the substantive aspect, particularly the results of the meeting? What is more, there is a hint of concern in their forecasts.

Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, visited Vienna recently. Her ostentatious words about the role of Austria as a bridge between the eastern and western parts of our continent were perceived as a routine compliment—local politicians feel the weight of the layer of problems which the delegates will not have the strength to lift. The statement which Austrian Minister Alois Mock made after discussing the forum's agenda with the guest is characteristic. We must find our bearings, he emphasized, in respect of such faits accomplis as the change in Europe's political architecture and the phenomenon of enmity and intolerance toward foreigners that has flared up in a number of states.

It will prove particularly complex, in the minister's opinion, to draw up a convention on the rights of ethnic minorities. He did not go into details, but it is clear anyway that the behavior of the "novices"—Estonia, above all—has already become an irritant for the "traditional" members of the Council of Europe. Official Tallinn had barely crossed the threshold of the decorous international organization before it started preparing the eviction of "Russian speakers" from their apartments and from cities and settlements where the majority of these people were born and grew up. It was certainly not a question of a handful of people—this affected one-third of the country's population! It is truly to be regretted that such steps, which probably beat the scale of the Stalinist repressions, have given rise to no more than a slight murmur and cautious disapproval in the corridors of the Council of Europe.

The first official press release received by journalists here contains a paragraph registering the intention of states which are still only preparing to join the Council of Europe of participating in the session. The list includes Albania, Belarus, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, and Croatia. If the Russian representatives in Vienna take a principled stand on questions of protecting the interests of the Russian population in the Baltic countries, the atmosphere of the Vienna meeting could become stormy and cause such a headache that the "aspirin" of today's half-measures and admonitions against violators of human rights will not get rid of it.

Coal, Metal Association Follows Economic Union

LD2809102693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the agreement on an economic union signed by CIS member states in Moscow on September 24 had given the green light to creating powerful supranational economic structures. One of them is the Eurasian Interstate Coal and Metal Association, the agreement on forming of which was reached at the Moscow summit, Chernomyrdin told Presidential Bulletin editor Boris Grishchenko.

The Association was instituted by Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Georgia. Any other country, not necessarily only CIS members, could join it, the prime minister said.

The Association's main purpose is to provide favorable conditions for the development of the coal and steel industries, such as a solid raw material base, coordinated scientific, technological, and capital investment policies, mutually beneficial trade, and efficient output marketing. Although the Association's headquarters will be located in Moscow and Russian will be its official language, its administrative structure will ensure its interstate character. The Association will be headed by a collegium consisting of heads of governmental bodies running the coal and steel industries in its member countries. The collegium will be meeting at least twice a year. Its funds will be formed by contributions made by its member states, loans, and donations from organizations, companies, or individuals.

The fact that such a body will be set up shows the desire of the Commonwealth countries to bring their economic contacts down from the governmental level to the level of industries and enterprises, Chernomyrdin said, describing this desire as an indication of economic convergence between CIS states. There are many other examples of this already, but there will be even more of them, he said.

Baltic Presidents To Lobby for Troop Pullout at UN

PM2709141393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Sychev report: "Three Baltic Presidents Traveling to New York To Complain About Moscow"]

[Text] The Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian presidents are planning to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York next week. The main topic at the forthcoming talks will be—Russia and its troops remaining in the Baltics. "Three voices are better than one," Anta Busa, the Latvian president's press secretary, stated without going into details.

The end of September and beginning of October promise to be exceptionally difficult for Moscow from the diplomatic point of view. The deadline before which Russia has been told to sign agreements with the Baltic states about withdrawing its troops runs out 6 October. This date was set by an amendment adopted by the U.S. Congress which may prevent Russia from receiving $700 million in American aid.

It is not only U.S. dollars which the three Baltic presidents are using as a means of pressure on Moscow but also, without doubt, the opportunities provided by the important forum of the UN General Assembly, whose opening they will attend.

In the three years since the Baltics gained their independence, Russia has withdrawn more than 130,000 servicemen from the region. Last month the last Russian soldier left Lithuania. Some 20,000 soldiers and officers are left in Latvia and Estonia.

Moscow has explained its tardiness in withdrawing the troops sometimes by the difficult economic situation, sometimes by the mass withdrawal of troops from Europe and the problems of housing them, sometimes by the infringement of Russians' rights in the Baltics.

Today the Russian soldiers in Latvia and Estonia are regarded as "occupiers" who insult these independent states' sovereignty. "We made it quite clear," stated British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, who is in Moscow, "that in Britain's view, Latvia and Estonia are independent states, and the withdrawal of Russia troops must not be linked with any problems."

Baltic Council Approves Human Rights Mandate

WS2709151793 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0857 GMT 27 Sep 93

[From 27 September HOMMIKULEHT, p 7]

[Text] Monday, September 27—The Baltic Sea Countries Council Higher Officials Committee approved the mandate of the human rights and ethnic minorities commissioner at its session in Tallinn on Friday [24 September].

The Commissioner's authorities will not be too wide-reaching and will be concentrated on consultations mostly, Estonian Foreign Ministry Chancellor Alar Olljum said. He added that the Commissioner will be entitled to visit the Baltic Sea Council member countries, to make inquiries and to address his reports to the member countries or the Council. Olljum described the establishing of the Commissioner's post as timely and necessary and announced that the Vepsians and the Karelians had already appealed to the Higher Officials Committee. The appeal had been relayed to the CSCE national minorities commissioner Max van der Stoel. Olljum expressed his hope that the Baltic Sea Countries Council commissioner will start working the next year already.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Events in Georgia

Yeltsin Evacuation Offer Noted

LD2709192193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry made a statement tonight saying that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had given instructions to the Defense Ministry to give necessary assistance in order to evacuate Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state and chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council, from the conflict zone. His consent has not been received so far.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has addressed the Abkhazian leadership with the categorical demand that the further advance of troops be halted, firing ceased, and acts of violence against the peaceful population prevented. The Russian Foreign Ministry categorically rejects all accusations that the Russian Federation and its Armed Forces are involved in the latest surge of bloodshed in Abkhazia.

Armed Forces' Involvement Denied

LD2809093893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has denied accusations that the Russian Federation and its Armed Forces are involved in the latest bout of bloodletting in Abkhazia.

Russia is taking emergency action to evacuate women, children, and the sick and wounded from the city, and assault ships from the Black Sea Fleet have been brought in for that purpose. Nearly 10,000 people were evacuated on 27 September alone.

Kozyrev Denounces Sukhumi Capture

LD2809121393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is attending the session of the UN General Assembly currently in progress in New York, has described the taking of Sukhumi by the Abkhazians as a most flagrant breach of the Sochi cease-fire agreement of 27 July. The minister believes that the fall of Sukhumi in effect annuls those accords, which were reached with direct Russian mediation. Kozyrev reaffirmed Russia's readiness to continue to offer its services as a mediator. He said that Boris Pastukhov, the Russian Federation president's personal representative, is still working on this matter.

Paper Views Evolution of Clinton Military Doctrine

PM2709124393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Sep 93 p 3

[Lieutenant Colonel Mikhail Pogorelyy article: "The 'Clinton Doctrine': How It Is Coming Into Being"]

[Text] Military and military-political doctrines in the United States usually receive the name of the current president, regardless of whether he publicly proclaimed the strategic aims of America's leadership or signed a corresponding secret directive. The present head of the White House has not yet done either. Nevertheless, an analysis of his policy and of the documents and practical steps of the U.S. foreign policy and military departments gives grounds for declaring that the "Clinton doctrine" is on the point of seeing the light of day. What might its substance be, and what is new about the 42d U.S. President's views on the main areas of the development of his country's armed forces and on the strategy of their use?

The military doctrine of any state contains an assessment of the state of national security and the likelihood of future threats to it, as well as ways to neutralize and counter such threats—hence the main areas of the development, equipping, and possible use of the country's Armed Forces and its defense potential in general. Accordingly, Russian science traditionally singles out the military-political and military-technical aspects of military doctrine. Let us examine from this viewpoint the concepts of the present Washington administration.

For almost the past eight decades, as is known, one of the central components of U.S. policy was rivalry and confrontation with our country. That course probably attained its peak not even under Eisenhower and Stalin but under Reagan and the last Soviet leaders. During those years "global opposition to the Soviets in all areas" and U.S. "direct confrontation" with the Soviet Union became not just the foreign policy doctrine but the actual crux of all American life. The "Cold War," which, as we now know, was on the wane, flared up with particular, unprecedented force. It hit mercilessly at science, technical progress, culture, and even sports. But this was manifested particularly clearly in the military sphere.

For the first time since World War II it was not a question of "containing," "retaliating" against, or "deterring" the socialist community headed by the USSR. In the eighties Washington set itself the aim of preparing for a lengthy, universal nuclear war, reckoning on victory over the "evil empire"—the Soviet Union. The priorities of military building were defined in accordance with those plans: the nuclear potential (particularly for a first, disarming strike), communications and control systems, air defense and ABM systems (including space systems), equipping of the troops with conventional arms with casualty-producing elements approaching those of "battlefield" (tactical) nuclear weapons. In addition to rearmament, the largest-scale reorganization of the troops' . ructure since World War

II was also launched: The purpose was said to be to enhance the mobility and controllability and, thus, also the effectiveness of army, air, and naval combined units. Programs costing tens of billions of dollars (several trillions in total!) permeated the U.S. economy and science and still entail substantial costs as they are terminated or mothballed.

R. Reagan's aim of "horizontal (geographic) escalation" implied a fundamental readiness to engage the "enemy No. 1" (or states allied with it, which in this case is almost the same thing) at any point on the globe and to participate in as many wars or local conflicts as the forces suffice for. G. Bush, Reagan's follower and comrade in arms, merely proclaimed the slogan of the "new world order" and took trial steps toward it, which were not always correct and consistent.

Bill Clinton's administration sees the main sources of the threat to U.S national security in "the danger of the spread of weapons of mass destruction," "state terrorism," and "ethnic conflicts which escalate into protracted hotbeds of military tension." These threats—whether they are imaginary or real is another matter—are personified for Washington by specific states: North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and Libya on the first two counts; Yugoslavia, a number of central and East European countries, and the former Soviet Transcaucasian and Central Asian republics on the third count. At the same time the United States believes that Russia, by virtue of its historical influence and geopolitical position, could play a tremendous role in preventing or suppressing the aforementioned threats.

It is no coincidence that the memorandum of mutual understanding signed by the Russian Federation defense minister and the U.S. defense secretary 8 September this year directly provides for cooperation to be organized within the framework of the peacemaking corps which will be made up of 27 motorized rifle divisions of the Volga District and three mechanized divisions of the U.S. European Command. The corps will most likely operate under NATO command (in Yugoslavia, at any rate).

Taking the aforesaid into account, it is possible to understand the Pentagon's return to the concept of "two wars." With due regard for the fact that they are not now reckoning on preparing for two "big" wars or a "big" and a "small" war, as before. It is now a question of two regional conflicts of small or medium tension proceeding "almost simultaneously" (with due regard for the time difference needed to transfer troops by air and sea). It is proposed to maintain a strategic reserve in the continental United States.

Consequently, as during the times of another Democratic president, the realist-pragmatist John Kennedy, priority is being given under Clinton to the development of conventional armed forces. Of course, the nuclear component is being preserved but is taking a back seat, as it were. Once again this is a means of containment rather than the main trump (in a regional war!). A plan to strike with nuclear forces is retained, but today it contains up to 7,000 targets: Under Kennedy there were 6,000, and under Reagan more than 40,000! The restrictions of the START I and START II Treaties, combined with those imposed earlier (SALT), are making the modernization of conventional general-purpose forces increasingly urgent. This fully coincides with the armed forces' tasks stemming from the U.S. foreign policy obligations.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported on the quantitative normatives 16 September this year. I will only remind you that, compared with this year's state of play, the new U.S. plan of military building provides for a reduction by a factor of 1.5 in the number of divisions (regular and reserve) of ground troops, equivalent Air Force squadrons, and naval warships, as well as the number of military bases and other installations in the infrastructure of the armed forces. Of course, the fire and strike potential of the troops being retained will simultaneously be enhanced by means of high-tech arms, intelligence, control and communications systems.

How, under such conditions, does the U.S. military propose to act "if there is war tomorrow"? It hardly rejoices at the upcoming reductions (as in the army of any other country): In addition to the reduction in the number of combined units, 160,000 servicemen and 115,000 civilian employees of the U.S. Defense Department face dismissal. And yet the Pentagon's reaction is businesslike and devoid of emotion. As Defense Secretary Les Aspin and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reported recently, the grouping in accordance with the proposed scenario for the development of a conflict could be as follows. Ground forces (10 divisions of regular ground troops and three of Marines plus 15 reserve brigades and one reserve division respectively) form two strike groupings, each one with four or five Army divisions and four or five brigades of Marines. The Navy allocates four or five carrier-borne strike groups for each of the wars. The Air Force sends 10 tactical air squadrons and up to 100 heavy bombers to each of the theaters of military operations.

It will not be possible to "break up" some of the means, owing to their limited number in the first place. The Pentagon mentions as an example the AWACS, J-STAR, F-117, EF-111, B-2, and a number of other systems. Provision is made to maneuver them between theaters of military operations. And also, incidentally, with both air and sea means of moving troops.

It is precisely the last reason that makes U.S. Defense Department experts talk of waging two wars "almost simultaneously": The U.S. troops need a "gap" of several weeks or even months in order to have time to deliver to the theater of military operations personnel (this is easiest of all), heavy armament, ammunition, fuel, food, etc. In order to reduce this gap to a minimum, it is proposed to build up the prepositioning of combat hardware and material resources in the most likely theaters of military operations, which was begun long

ago in fulfillment of the Carter doctrine, the stationing of contingents of U.S. troops there on a permanent or temporary basis, and the maintenance of appropriate treaty relations with the governments of friendly countries. In this sphere the Pentagon calls Germany, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Egypt, Panama, and a number of others key countries.

With reliance on a "wartime" infrastructure network scattered about the world, the Pentagon proposes also to use peacemaking contingents. They are appreciably smaller than purely "combat" ones, with up to 50,000 men. The standard grouping for such a purpose includes one airborne or air assault division, a light infantry division, a marines expeditionary brigade, one or two carrier-borne groups, one or two mixed-composition air wings and special-purpose and combat and rear support subunits. It is not easy to instill peace with such modest forces and means, and so the main gamble is on forming multinational peacemaking forces. The first attempts (as yet, not very successful) have been seen in Somalia and Yugoslavia. But they have shown that there is a catastrophic shortage at present of military partnership within the framework of NATO, the only practically functioning military-political alliance. It is logical to assume that Washington will step up the search for allies and accelerate the development of military cooperation in the very near future. (Incidentally, this summer the United States signed agreements on various forms of cooperation in the defense sphere with both Ukraine and Belarus, in addition to Russia).

It can be assumed that the plans of the Pentagon, the State Department, the National Security Council, the CIA, and other interested departments that exist today will soon be made official in a presidential directive which will formulate the "Clinton doctrine" as an integral document. Some things will be new and unexpected to us. But it will be certain to contain the following key points.

Above all, there will be a rejection, for the first time during the postwar years, of preparations for a "big" war against Russia (as previously—the USSR); a gamble on preparing to wage one or two nonnuclear wars, rather on a regional scale; at the same time a clear emphasis on the prospect of the U.S. Armed Forces' participation in peacemaking operations in coalition with traditional (NATO) and new (Russia and other young democratic states of Europe and Asia) partners. And accordingly, the priority development of general-purpose nonnuclear forces and means to ensure their mobility, the enhancement of the fire and strike power of combined units of ground troops, and the equipping of the Air Force and Navy with high-tech combat hardware.

U.S. Report on POW's Under Examination

LD2809095793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—The information about the transportation to the USSR of U.S. prisoners of war during the Korean war, which is contained in the report of the U.S. Administration handed to Russia early in September, is "based on undocumented, verbal evidence, and needs serious checking," a Russian representative in the joint Russian-American commission on clarifying the fate of U.S. citizens, reported missing during and after the Second World War, told ITAR-TASS.

Now we are carefully examining all the information on that issue, provided by the U.S. Administration. It would be premature to draw any conclusions before the completion of the comprehensive check-up, the Russian representative stressed.

Former Magadan Prisoner To Be Interviewed

PM2709151193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report under "From Our Information Bureau" rubric: "Come to Our Place on the Kolyma..."]

[Text] The U.S. representatives of a combined Russian-U.S. commission investigating the fate of POW's and MIA's intend to visit Magadan prison in the very near future.

The aim of the visit is to verify information received by commission members from a Russian citizen, a retired colonel. In this prison three decades ago he allegedly saw a man resembling a U.S. Marine missing in action during the Korean war. Despite the fact that a considerable period of time has elapsed since then, the colonel confidently recognized the American from a photograph he was shown, a U.S. Defense Department spokesman announced.

Senate Adopts Bill on U.S. Aid

PM2709105993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "U.S. Senate Earmarks $2.5 Billion in Aid to Countries of Former Union"]

[Text] Washington—By 88 votes to 10 the U.S. Senate adopted a bill under which the countries of the former Soviet Union will receive aid of $2.5 billion. If U.S. President Clinton signs it, then deliveries of grain and medical supplies, equipment and technologies and technical skills will be backed up by money as early as the start of October.

Actually, that "if" is an irrelevant trifle. It is perfectly clear that the President, who is one of the most vigorous supporters of worldwide assistance to Russian democracy, will not delay in signing.

It is surprising how even great events wither and die in the shadow of even greater ones. Passions raged for

several months around the bill on aid to foreign countries, in particular to the NIS (New Independent States, as all the heirs of the USSR are called in America). A Senate majority emerged but it was vague and unclear. With the disappearance of the Soviet threat the rejection of any rhetoric connected with sending money abroad became a widespread opinion. Art Buchwald, the famous newspaper columnist, published an acerbic comment on the eve of this problem's discussion in the Senate: Los Angeles, which is acutely in need of federal money for construction in the regions which suffered from the urban riots and fires, asks Yasir 'Arafat to consider it part of the Gaza Strip.

But the day for voting on this bill coincided with two events of extreme importance. First, President Clinton addressed the country in connection with the health care reform, expenditure on which comprises one eighth of the national product, that is something like $350-380 billion a year. Second, events took place in Russia which are seen here as important for the final transition to democracy and a market economy.

The bill enthusiastically supported by the senators opens up before the U.S. President opportunities to finance without delay projects in Russia and other new independent states. But the administration does not conceal the fact that the giver's hand will be constantly on the tap. And that tap will be turned off when the White House is convinced that the U.S. taxpayers' money is being used not for reforms but to reinforce the former structures or, which is no better, to line officials' pockets.

The legislators set a number of conditions on financial assistance to Russia. For instance, help to Moscow could be ended if it does not withdraw its troops from the Baltics on time. If it renders economic support to Cuba or sells arms to countries which pursue a policy of state terrorism. In accordance with the amendment of Senator Jesse Helms (a Republican from North Carolina) of the total sum of appropriations for Russia about $4 million will be deducted—that is what the diplomats of the former USSR owed the Washington authorities in the form of unpaid parking fines.

Aid Program Criticized

PM2809100193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 93 p 3

[Sergey Filatov article: "'Aims' and 'Principles' of U.S. Aid"]

[Text] In the conference room of the information center of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow there was a live radio linkup with Washington. At this end of the line several Russian journalists gathered around the microphones, and at the other end a very distinguished public: Malcolm Butler, leader of the U.S. aid program for the CIS countries; Jack Matlock, former U.S. ambassador to Russia; Vladimir Lukin, Russia's present ambassador to the United States; Thomas Simmons, representative of the State Department; Daniel Gardere, French ambassador to the United States; and John Olding-Smit [surname as transliterated], representative of the IMF. The conversation between those gathered there in the National Press Club and those in the conference room here was moderated by Brian Atwood, administrator of the CIS aid program.

It all began with a speech by B. Atwood, who at once declared that Yeltsin's decision to dissolve parliament "clearly illustrates the chief question and the risk," adding that "the end of communism is one thing, while the building of a new society is something totally different."

His entire bombastic speech was built on roughly the same phrases, which say nothing. Here, for example, are the principles by which the executors of the CIS aid program are guided: Foreign aid to the CIS must be built on a feeling of ownership and involvement; we must focus on results; we must maintain constant communication and cooperation; foreign aid must help people to create institutions and to strengthen them.

I do not wish to offend the conference's hospitable hosts from the embassy, but what is this if not demagoguery? Take, for example, the first aim set by the aid program—to transform the "command" economy into a "market" economy and to create "democratic capitalism."

Has anyone at all asked people whether this is to their liking? The Americans, on the other hand, have no doubts. "We have already noticed," Atwood read out the previously prepared text, "that vouchers with their original value of 10,000 rubles are now being sold everywhere. This is a true sign (!) that privatization was reliable.... There are good deals everywhere," he continued. "People can go into business even with modest investments."

Mr. Chubays would evidently like to read this. Other opinions on the building of "democratic capitalism" are not taken into account.

The second aim of the program is to help to transform the authoritarian system into a system of democratic involvement. This is confused and vague, although details followed. "We are helping the CIS countries to draw up constitutions and laws.... Our true aim is to support the spirit of constitutionality."

Cynicism grew stronger. To work out in America the constitutions of those countries which were anxious to be sovereign? To speak of "constitutionality" and support Boris Yeltsin, who has placed himself above the Fundamental Law?

"Our third aim is to help cope with the social cost of the transition," the transatlantic opponents asseverated. A little later, however, Mr. Atwood failed to answer my question from across the Atlantic: "Does it not seem to you that the noble aim of supporting the indigent is becoming increasingly hard for you and demanding ever more funds, because there are more and more poor

people as Gaydar's reforms deepen?" In addition, no sound of dollars could be heard behind Brian Atwood's words—there simply are none, for they are not being allocated by Congress.

Finally, the "final aim"—to help cope with "the communist legacy to the environment." Neither more, nor less! "We have a legitimate right to fear another Chernobyl," the main speaker bombastically raised his voice. I would like to know: Did the destruction of tropical forests in Vietnam with U.S. toxins during the war do no ecological harm? Has everyone forgotten Hiroshima? No, not everyone. Then tell me—is communism also to blame there?

As you see, many questions arose during the speech. But it sounded so heart-felt and was ideally meant to cause joy and emotion—see what kind and responsive friends we have—that it was possible to really feel the meaning of the rounded phrases or, rather, the lack of meaning only when the speech had come to an end. Therefore I hastened to put specific questions: "Where is the promised international aid for Russia and the CIS—at first $24 billion, and now this year $43 billion? Why are the few aid programs backed up by money aimed only at supporting the private sector and disarming Russia—at conversion and the construction of housing for demobilized officers?"

I eventually received a long, streamlined reply with the following such sentences: "In Tokyo the democratic states decided to continue supporting the Russian reforms...." "The construction of houses for officers is an urgent program which can become a big construction program for Russia. This program will deepen cooperation...." "As far as we are able, we will help privatization—this complex stage in creating a competitive economy...."

The only specific thought expressed by Mr. Atwood was as follows: "There is none of our money in Moscow." It was accompanied by the explanation that it still has to be obtained through Congress, which is not allocating it, and so new efforts are required....

I also listened to other speeches and realized that there is nothing real behind these words. The widely publicized aid program for the CIS countries is nothing but slogans.

We are selling ourselves cheaply. The live discussion with Washington convinced me of this once again. As regards real aid, then... Mr. Butler's whole program even in its present form will not get moving until Moscow withdraws all the troops from the Baltic region. This is Washington's most recent condition.

So who needs the "four principles" and the "four aims" proclaimed by Brian Atwood?

IMF Postpones Loan To Promote Economic 'Order'

PM2809092193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Nadein report: "Loans Frozen Owing to Slowdown in Reforms. IMF and World Bank Suspended Loan Payments of $2.1 Billion to Russia"]

[Text] Washington—The IMF has adopted a decision to postpone the granting of a loan of $1.5 billion to Russia. The reason given was Russia's inability to overcome inflation and ensure the pace necessary for reforms.

This decision followed several warnings which the IMF directors sent to the Russian Government. Clinton administration officials who have visited Moscow recently have also expressed their concern at the high inflation rate, which in August reached 29 percent.

The frozen $1.5 billion is the second part of a program which the IMF elaborated last spring. Russia received the first $1.5 billion in June, and the second payment should have followed in September. The World Bank has also postponed its planned payment of $600 million to Moscow representing the next in a series of loans.

The overall package of economic aid granted to Russia by the G-7 countries amounts to $44 billion, which also includes delayed debt servicing equivalent to $16 billion.

However, more than $10 billion which are being channeled through the IMF and the World Bank may be frozen for months if Russia is unable to tame inflation and get the budget deficit under strict control.

The NEW YORK TIMES, the first newspaper to report the IMF decision, quotes one high-ranking IMF official who insisted on remaining anonymous. The official said that the IMF is dangling the $1.5-million loan as a carrot in order to force Moscow to put its economy in order. He also said that the granting of the money has not been postponed for a few months, as was stated, but indefinitely. At the same time, the payments may even be resumed before the end of the year if Russia develops clear signs of a "strong and renewed commitment to reforms."

IMF and U.S. Administration officials are liberally spicing the negative information about their concern at the slowdown in the economic transformations which in their opinion occurred last summer with indications of positive changes which have been occurring since the beginning of September. Among the changes which are giving hope to the Western investors and creditors the observers unanimously single out Yegor Gaydar's return to the government.

Lawrence Summers, Treasury under secretary for international affairs, recently returned from Moscow, considers for example that "the recent inflationary wave was too high, but I am heartened by official Russian plans to once more get finances under control. It is extremely

important that these plans are implemented on the basis of Russian economic growth, with Western aid working in a fully efficient manner."

However, it is not out of the question that such statements are born of a desire to sweeten the pill. In actual fact there are signs that there is growing irritation in Washington at the Russian state machine's inefficiency and disorder in carrying out reforms and their departure from stated aims. In the opinion of one expert, "the West has no intention of throwing billions more into the consuming fire of Russian inflation."

As a rule, U.S. Administration representatives evaluate the state of the Russian economy in more positive terms than international finance organization staff. In the opinion of one unnamed government expert quoted by THE NEW YORK TIMES, the Russian economy is certainly not in a desperate state. People in the U.S. Government consider that the halting of the very rapid decline in production, the increase in the price of coal, and the stabilization of the exchange rate are evidence of this. The most recent positive signs include a fall in the inflation rate to 3 percent during the first week in September.

Kozyrev Meets Turkish Counterpart at UN

LD2709210093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2003 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations September 27 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met in New York on Monday [27 September] with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. They noted the progress of cooperation between the two countries, discussed the results of the recent visit to Moscow of the Turkish prime minister, examined in detail possibilities of the development of relations in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as well as the situation in Abkhazia and on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Andrey Kozyrev and Hikmet Cetin paid a special attention to perspectives of the settlement of the situation in Cyprus.

Further Meetings

LD2809033093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0022 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] UN, 28 Sep—On Monday [27 September] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held a meeting in New York with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. They discussed the situation in Russia. The conversation also touched on the possibilities of Russo-British cooperation in the UN Security Council and the CSCE. Particular attention was focused on "crisis points"—Georgia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Bosnia. A. Kozyrev stressed the need for the timely utilization of the UN's peacekeeping potential in the settlement of conflicts on the territory of the CIS.

On the same day, the foreign minister of the Russian Federation had a conversation with Javier Solana Madariaga, the foreign minister of Spain. They exchanged opinions on the possibilities for a Bosnian settlement and discussed the prospects for the integration of Russia into various European institutions and also cooperation by the two countries in ensuring security and stability in Europe.

Romania's Vacaroiu Arrives on Official Visit

LD2709110493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0816 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Sep—Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vararoiu arrived in Russia today for an official visit.

The Romanian head of government will be received by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. A number of Russian-Romanian agreements are expected to be signed during the visit, including one on the activities of the inter-governmental commission on trade and economic and scientific and technical cooperation, and also a treaty on cooperation in the sphere of culture, science, trade, and tourism.

Talks With Chernomyrdin

AU2709173493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1600 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Moscow Correspondent Silvia Ilies report]

[Text] The major goal of the Romanian governmental delegation which arrived today in Moscow at the invitation of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is to, together, find a coherent framework for bilateral economic and political relations that is suitable for both sides.

The delegation, which includes 16 governmental officials, is accompanied by a group of 21 counselors and experts, a large group of businessmen, and 26 journalists.

The first round of Russian-Romanian talks started at around 1400 at the government headquarters of the Russian Federation. The delegations are expected to sign certain accords on promoting and ensuring the mutual protection of investments, the protocol referring to commercial exchanges and payments for 1993-94 period, the rules according to which the joint inter- governmental commission for economic and technical scientific cooperation operates, the accord on cultural exchanges, and the development of education and tourism.

As a representative of the Foreign Ministry mentioned, the agenda for this dialogue will also include other issues, which have already been the subject of dialogue and negotiations with the Russian side.

So far, according to statements by Romanian Government Spokesman Ioan Rosca, the sides have discussed possibilities of increasing the amount of natural gas supplies for Romania by 2 billion cubic meters for the fourth term of this year. The proposal was accepted by the Russian side, as a result of the fact that the roughly $40 million debt to the Russian Federation has been paid off, integrally.

Tomorrow, the representatives of the two governments will establish the details of this contract.

Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu also broached the issue of ensuring the transit though the Russian gas-pipe of 240 cubic meters of natural gas from Turkmenistan, a proposal that has also been accepted by the Russian side. The amount of gas is the payment for certain work carried out by Romanian experts in that republic.

As a component of the political dialogue, the two prime ministers also discussed issues of revitalizing traditional relations between Romania and Russia. Prime Minister Chernomyrdin affirmed that there are more things that connect us than separate us. He stressed, quote, my position favors a close and mutually advantageous cooperation; I am in favor of relations of partnership, end quote.

The head of the Romanian executive said that he wishes to use this visit to Russia to reactivate bilateral relations, expressing his belief that the legal framework of economic relations should be changed by granting greater opportunities to private firms and to commercial firms with state and private capital for direct cooperation.

At the end of this initial dialogue, press statements by the two prime ministers are expected.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD2809111193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2029 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Russia and Romania should "speed up the development of relations primarily in the economic sphere," said Victor Chernomyrdin on Monday [27 September] at the end of his talks with his Romanian colleague Nicolae Vacaroiu. He stressed that in the first place "Russia and Romania should restore links which were established in past and after that move further."

The head of the Russian Government is of the opinion that the two countries should develop relations not only at the inter-state level, as it used to be, but at the level of regions and enterprises as well.

Chernomyrdin also said that political issues were not brought up at the meeting of the heads of governments.

During the talks five documents were signed including the agreement on cultural, scientific and educational cooperation; agreement on cooperation in tourism; agreement on evading double taxation; protocol on 1993-94 turnover and payments and protocol on Russian-Romanian intergovernmental commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Ambartsumov Discusses Relations With East Europe

AU2709134293 Budapest BESZELO in Hungarian 25 Sep 93 pp 22,23

[Interview with Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Foreign Affairs Committee, by Ilona Kiss in Moscow; date not given: "Waiting for a Warm Invitation"]

[Text] Yevgeniy Ambartsumov is a permanent and vehement opponent of the Russian Government's official foreign policy. He is a literary man and historian whose book *Lenin and the Road to Socialism* (1982) can also be found in our Foreign Language Library (former Gorkiy Library). His voice was often heard in connection with the separate Serbian-Russian talks and he is now mentioned as one of the main supporters of Russian-Slovak relations. For example, when Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky was in Moscow, Ambartsumov was part of a Russian delegation visiting Bratislava. We interviewed him in his office in parliament.

[Kiss] How do you explain that the Hungarian-Russian basic agreement was not ratified [in Moscow]?

[Ambartsumov] This is an unfortunate fact. I actually tried to convince my fellow deputies twice to ratify it but did not succeed. Both sides are responsible for this. When the agreement was drawn up, the passage on 1956 was not part of it. At the last minute, [Hungarian Prime Minister] Jozsef Antall asked for something to be included in connection with this. Yeltsin said: Of course, why not. Then, instead of redrawing the text in an appropriate way, the matter was dealt with through a simple exchange of foreign ministerial notes. Straight away, this is a violation of the law.

The other mistake was that rather than making the above issue a part of the text, it was attached to it in a postscript, as a separate document. Many people saw this as a violation of national self-esteem. They said that if Russia apologizes, then Hungary should also apologize for participating in the attack against the Soviet Union in 1941 on the side of the axis powers. These historical facts cannot be part of a basic agreement even if we admit that Hungary's sovereignty was seriously violated. Anyway, why should Russia apologize in a state agreement for something that was committed by the Soviet Union?

[Kiss] In your view, how could the deadlock on the issue of the basic agreement be broken?

[Ambartsumov] Hungary should agree that the Russian Parliament discuss the document in the form in which it was originally signed by Antall and Yeltsin, without the clause. This suggestion was not welcomed, however, in either the Russian or the Hungarian Foreign Ministries. Another possibility is to invalidate the above method of apology through another exchange of notes. In my view, this clause does not add anything to the contents of the basic agreement anyway. The gesture of apologies could be published in a different form of document.

We should choose one of these solutions, but when I last asked Foreign Minister Churkin about what we would do in this issue, his answer was: nothing. So we are waiting. Until the issue of the apologies is resolved, the Russian Parliament will not again put the ratification on its agenda.

[Kiss] What are your views on the Hungarian advances to NATO?

[Ambartsumov] I have very negative views on this. All I can imagine is that Hungary approaches NATO and Russia at the same time. I can understand Yeltsin's Warsaw statement, namely that Poland, Hungary, and the other East European countries have complete freedom of action. However, I would not support this because I do not see any point in Russia helping the evolvement of a "cordon sanitaire" on its border. If NATO and the CSCE do not turn into a structure that ensures Europe's security on the basis of new principles then an alliance might be formed which, among others, is against the Soviet successor states.

[Kiss] Certain Russian political groups are paying special attention to Slovakia....

[Ambartsumov] Russia has especially warm and friendly relations with those countries that reciprocate. It especially gives preference to those countries that understand Russia's position and that, at the moment, our main interest is the preservation of domestic unity.

Personally, I have high esteem for the Hungarian president [Arpad Goncz], but many people in Moscow were surprised that he visited the Finno-Ugrik peoples living on Russia's territory, avoiding Moscow. This way, the impression was created that this visit was outside the framework of interstate relations and the Hungarians treated these republics as independent units. This affects us rather delicately.

(We must reject the statements of our interviewee at this point. Goncz began his July visit in Moscow where he held an international news conference together with the Russian leaders; then during the second week of his visit to the "provinces," he used Yeltsin's special airplane to fly to Moscow where he met the Russian president and the foreign minister. It is true that Goncz did not meet our interviewee. BESZELO editorial note.)

When the Council of Europe discussed the situation of the Russian minority in the Baltics, I was surprised that the leader of the Hungarian delegation supported Estonia unconditionally (and it seems that because it is also seen as a state with a Finno-Ugrik population). This way, the Hungarians approved the formula the essence of which is that the Russians in Estonia are occupiers. This stance completely excludes human rights considerations. For example, the Swiss delegation discarded this attitude.

Slovakia, as a small state, is seeking support and this is an urgent and ardent call for us. This does not mean that we would create some kind of pan-Slav unity against Hungary. However, Hungary will also have to take a more refined foreign political stance.

[Kiss] What are your views on the south Slav crisis?

[Ambartsumov] We do not agree with the fact that almost everyone completely rejects Serbia while treating Croatia with some amount of understanding. We also do not agree with the European Community's still maintaining the sanctions on rump Yugoslavia. We do not understand why Hungary supports the sanctions when it also suffers because of them. In Russia, due to the influence of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, the Foreign Ministry's Balkans policy has become much more moderate.

[Kiss] Is there a way out of the Russian-Ukrainian dispute?

[Ambartsumov] In my view, only some form of reunification can be a solution. This will happen sooner or later.

Kunadze Says Yeltsin Visit to Japan Not 'Sensational'

LD2709150493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1209 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow September 27 TASS—Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze has described the forthcoming visit of the Russian president to Japan, scheduled on October 12, as "a large-scale event of tremendous importance," adding that the visit should not be regarded as sensational.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Kunadze said that he does not share opinions that there has been a period of stalemate in relations between Russia and Japan. Kunadze said that, therefore, he "is not inclined to regard the fact of fixing the date for the visit as a sensation. "The work for the preparation of the visit, despite certain difficulties of carrying it out earlier, has not been interrupted for a single day," Kunadze said.

In June, during the meeting of G-7 leaders in Tokyo, Yeltsin declared his intention to visit Japan in Autumn, 1993. "The Russian president is keeping his word," Kunadze said.

"I would like to point out that the choice of the time for the visit is tangible proof of the stability in the country and Yeltsin's confidence that the situation in Russia is fully under his control," he said.

Kunadze dismissed mass media speculations about final documents expected to be signed in Tokyo as "groundless and absurd."

"We can speak about this upon completion of the visit, but not before the visit has begun. The only thing one can dwell upon now is that over half a dozen agreements in different fields of Russo-Japanese relations are being prepared for signing," Kunadze said.

Kuril Island Appeals to Japan for Winter Aid

PM2709132993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Kurils Request Aid From Japanese"]

[Text] Tokyo—A month ago Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin descended on the Kuril Islands and promised local inhabitants material aid during the bitter winter, backing this up with a strong declaration that these lands are ours and that the Japanese cannot see the islands.

The master departed, the promises fortified the Kuril islanders' spirits for a whole month, but in the end there nevertheless was an outburst when due to a shortage of fuel the lights went out on Iturup, all production—which was not very well developed to start with—halted, schools and day care centers closed, and the weak service sector came to a standstill, and it became clear that during the winter people would have to make do with rationed food and heat—then telegrams were sent from "our lands" to the most unexpected people.

The island authorities sent petitions for urgent aid not only to Moscow but also to their closest geographical neighbors—the Japanese, who have a claim on these very islands, and even to the far-off U.S. President Clinton. The Japanese mass media have been quoting one of the messages, and not without some glee: "The Russian Government is not supplying us with fuel; the president is attending only to the struggle with the Supreme Soviet. And all of them together are abandoning us to the whim of fate."

The authors of the Kuril messages to foreign sponsors are virtually taking no chances in their appeals—the Japanese have already assisted the islands during spring of this year. They will help once more, this time in the fall.

Ministry Official Views Role in Tajik Conflict

LD2709185593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents Dmitry Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] There is an impression that neither the Dushanbe authorities, nor the Tajik opposition are prepared to reach compromises or begin serious talks. Under the circumstances the first step should be made by the stronger side, that is by Dushanbe. This statement was made in an interview with Interfax by a high-ranking member of Russia's Foreign Ministry responsible for regional problems.

"Strictly speaking, it cannot be said that the Tajik authorities refuse to have contacts with the opposition in principle. However they pick partners only among those who would listen to them," the diplomat said.

"Currently the armed opposition is relatively scanty, but this doesn't mean that it can be ignored. As 'the Afghan experience' has shown, its numbers can grow immeasurably within a brief period of time," said Interfax's interviewee. According to him, "the calmer the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, the fewer chances that Dushanbe will display realism and make a step to meet the opposition halfway, the greater the probability of disagreements within the Tajik leadership." Even now, the diplomat said, differences between those who come from the industrial north, Khodzhent, and the agrarian south, Kulyab, are obvious enough.

Russia, he said, intends to continue to "nudge" Dushanbe toward dialogue. "We are also willing to meet with spokesmen for the Tajik opposition, both moderate and armed," he noted.

Nevertheless, said Interfax's interviewee, the Tajik opposition should nurture no "illusions": Russia can serve only as "an honest mediator" in a dialogue between the Tajiks. "The declarations that the opposition will hold negotiations directly with Moscow, bypassing Dushanbe, cannot be taken seriously. Russia will take no part in the conflict between Tajiks, even though it is interested in having it resolved as soon as possible," he said.

Lately the situation of Russian frontier guards protecting the Tajik-Afghan border has somewhat improved, the diplomat said. "Now that the frontier stations are manned by 150 or 160 percent, there are no particular problems. However problems might emerge as soon as the term of service of a number of servicemen expires," he warned.

Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Mideast Peace Role

JN2609121293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Sep 93 pp 28, 22

[By Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Amman—Anatoliy Adamishin, Russia's first deputy foreign minister, has ruled out bloodshed in the current power crisis in Moscow. He said that the outcome will be peaceful and positive, and that there will be no shedding of blood despite the fall of some victims. He

reaffirmed that once matters are resolved, Russian resources will once again be unleashed to achieve democratic development and continue economic reforms, so that matters can develop in a healthy and positive manner in all directions which serve Russia and its people.

In an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR, Adamishin added that during his visit to the region, he gained the impression that all agree on and are emphasizing the need to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. He noted that all parties have this true and realistic desire and are working in this direction. He said that his country supports and welcomes this trend and accepts what the peoples of this region accept for themselves because they are directly concerned with this new reality.

Adamishin said he sensed that the people are tired of the tragedies of war and they believe that peace will open new and vast horizons for economic cooperation and revival in the entire region. This is because there are huge resources in this part of the world which, if invested during times of peace, will bring prosperity and eradicate poverty on which, what he termed extremist and radical trends as well as hostility, and hatred nourish.

Adamishin said that when he told the Israelis that he was going to visit the Arab states, they hoped to have the same opportunity. However, he denied that he was carrying any messages from Israeli leaders to the Arab countries, although he noted that peace will provide a better opportunity for peoples to meet once borders are removed. This is especially so since the entire world is heading toward openness, breaking down barriers, and increasing cooperation. Meanwhile, he added, Russia will utilize its reputation, leverage, contacts, and relations in order to reach a just and peaceful settlement in the region which has suffered a great deal.

Speaking about his tour of the Middle East, Adamishin said that he came to the area to acquaint himself with the reactions of this region's leaders toward the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which was signed in Washington on 13 September, and toward signing the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. He said he also wanted to ascertain the future action plans of the region's states and the future role which Russia can play in light of these developments, its capacity as a peace sponsor, its close contacts and broad relations in the region, and its efforts to achieve stability and peace in this part of the world. He noted that Russia aims at strengthening the peace trends.

Adamishin added that his country is closely following two main issues—the stage after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and the possible and practical means to implement it on the ground and work for progress on the other peace tracks, especially the Jordanian track, since Jordan is playing a key and effective role in achieving stability in the region, and also on the Lebanese-Israeli track and the Syrian-Israeli track.

He said Russia will not use pressure on Syria to convince it to support the agreement or to remain neutral. However, he emphasized the need for consulting, exchanging views and ideas, comparing positions, and presenting evidence regarding this development. All this will lead to the adoption of positions as was the case with Israel and Jordan during his current tour. He said that this is not an easy stage, and requires more patience, vision, and goodwill to realize the peace and settlement acceptable to all parties.

Adamishin declined to elaborate on his concept of the future Palestinian entity and left it for the Palestinians and Israelis to agree on, stressing that this should be done in consultation with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon because the problem is not confined to the Palestinians and Israelis. He said Russia will accept the final status that the parties accept and may present its opinion, but will not impose solutions and will accept what the main parties to the peace process accept, particularly concerning refugees, evacuees, and the Jerusalem problem and its final status.

He emphasized anew that the solution should not be imposed on this region from abroad, but all parties should be convinced of the need to reach acceptable solutions.

He expressed hope that agreements will be reached on other tracks, and said efforts are going on at present in all directions and on all levels for this purpose through the firm mechanism represented in bilateral and multilateral talks.

Adamishin said the Russian contribution to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement began a long time ago. Thousands of Palestinian students are currently studying in Russia, receiving various studies in science and technology and its applications. Russia has great technical capabilities and experience in various fields, and can offer these capabilities and experience in a simple form. He admitted that money is not available in his country now, and this is something known and cannot be hidden, but the Russians can extend their expertise, knowledge, sciences, and friendship. Russia also has experts and specialists on the Middle East.

He emphasized the need to raise the greatest funds as possible from Europe, the United States, Japan, and Canada to use in service of the agreement and for economic progress and infrastructure projects in both Gaza and Jericho and other occupied territories. He emphasized the proverb which says: One can trust in God, but work industriously and actively. The people should get jobs because assistance does not rescue a people, adding that the Palestinians are industrious and have high educational standards that can be utilized, and they will succeed in this.

Consortium To Build Equatorial Spaceport in New Guinea

PM2709134593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 3

[Valeriy Baberdin report: "Papuans Will See Off 'Protons' When Russia Constructs Cosmodrome on Equator"]

[Text] Launching satellites into geostationary orbit is one of the most profitable and prestigious businesses in the international space services market. Our Russian "Proton" launcher is simply an ideal method of doing this which is second to none in the world. What if, in addition, it is launched from the equator...! Less fuel is needed, which means that the weight of the satellites themselves can be substantially increased. It is with this in mind that a location in the north of Papua New Guinea has been chosen.

Talk of constructing a cosmodrome on the equator with the aid of Russian specialists has been going on in principle for a long time: A number of working meetings have been held and a site reconnaissance has been undertaken. A few days ago an agreement was signed. The partners are the Australian space company Space Transportation Systems (STS) and Russian organizations: the Khrunichev State Space Center, the General Machine Building Design Bureau, the "Energiya" science and production association, and Glavkosmos [Main Administration for the Development and Use of Space Technology for the National Economy and Scientific Research].

All the Russian firms which have signed the agreement have combined in a consortium which will act as a single legal entity in the project. This consortium will be directly involved in constructing the cosmodrome, providing technical equipment for it, and training specialists, and in the future it will deliver "Proton" launchers.

In the first phase STS will act more as an intermediary. It has obtained the exclusive right from the Papua New Guinea Government to construct a launch complex and to launch 20 "Proton" launchers from it over 20 years. Furthermore, the equatorial republic's government intends to issue licenses covering the cosmodrome's activity and the staging of other commercial launches.

The project as drawn up does not envisage funding from the Russian budget; it is open to investors throughout the world. The cosmodrome itself will exist as a private commercial enterprise. The project's total cost is estimated at $600-900 million. Implementation is scheduled for the beginning of the 21st century. However, as early as this year—next month—the first phase of funding from foreign sources will take place. Then a group of specialists from Russia and Australia will fly out to the site to determine the cosmodrome's exact location. When it has been constructed, all operations relating to the assembly of spacecraft and the testing and launching of the vehicles will be carried out by STS specialists, who will receive appropriate training from their Russian colleagues.

Sugar Company President Discusses Cuba, Russia Deals

PY2709203493 Moscow Radio Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By Gennadiy Sperskiy, from the "Latin American in Focus" feature: "Latin America in the Russian Press"]

[Text] The Russian news agency ITAR-TASS has transcribed an interview granted by (Per Persano), the president and director general of the company Sucden, which is the world leader in sugar trade deals.

Following orders from Russia, in 1992 Sucden swapped 3 million tons of Cuban sugar for 14 million tons of Russian oil. In the old USSR these operations used to be carried out by the state company (Prolichor), with which the deals could be carried out in Paris. At present there are many private companies, so Sucden opened an office in Moscow. Russia is poor, but the Russians are rich, the Sucden president said.

Last year we sold Russia 500,000 tons of sugar without any problem. The Russians pay with rubles, and the dealers exchange them for dollars. Large amounts of rubles are exchanged for dollars daily.

Sucden also cooperates with Ukraine. This republic also produces sugar, but not in sufficient amounts. In the past it used to import nearly all its sugar from Cuba. Now Cuban sugar purchases continue to be made, through Sucden. Once the sugar is refined in local mills, the Sucden office in Moscow sells it on the Russian market. The company is interested in modernizing Ukrainian sugar mills, to which end it has already signed an appropriate contract. Sucden also has similar contracts with Russia and Kazakhstan. The aforementioned swap with Russia is the most important deal in the history of trade, and thanks to this Sucden continues to be a leader in the sugar market. Sucden intends to continue operating on the same basis.

Economic Issues

Central Bank Intervention Halts Fall of Ruble

LD2709231893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2116 GMT 27 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Through enormous efforts—specialists note that interventions at the Moscow Inter-Bank Currency Exchange amounted to almost 60 percent of the volume of currency sold—the Russian Central Bank has succeeded in halting the fall of the ruble [R]. After the ruble fell to R1,299 to the dollar, today's exchange rate was R1,293. The volume of trade, however, was only 53 million dollars, which is 2.5 times less than last week. Financiers put forward different versions of exchange developments. Some believe that the falling demand for currency has been caused by the depleted ruble resources of the banks. On the other hand, it is quite possible that the government is already taking urgent measures to stabilize the ruble, proposed by Gaydar. They include canceling preferential credits which currently account for the lion's share of their total volume. Besides, the Finance Ministry has been requested to correct within two weeks Russia's 1993 budget and to calculate the indexation of income and expenditure taking into account the rate of inflation and the need for a regime of strict economy of state funds.

Gerashchenko Blames IMF Decision

LD2509122793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] At the request of Ekho Moskvy radio station, Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko commented on the situation in the currency market in the past few days. Speaking on the fall of the rate of the ruble, Gerashchenko observed that this fall could be explained firstly by inflationary processes and secondly by the fact that the Russian Central Bank has found its ability to influence the rate and the budget deficit gravely impaired by the decision of the IMF not to grant it the second part of a loan.

Central Bank Denies Weak Interventions 22-24 Sep

LD2409192293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1803 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—A statement of the Russian Central Bank was circulated here today to refute unofficial estimations claiming the weakening of the bank's role in formation of the rouble exchange rate.

The statement says the bank has not only continued currency interventions on September 22-24 despite claims of some mass media bodies, but also considerably increased them as compared to a period before the issuance of the presidential decree on stage-by-stage constitutional reform.

The interventions amounted to 65 per cent of the overall volume of sold hard currency on September 22, 76 per cent on September 23 and 73 per cent on September 24.

These actions enabled the bank to stop further increase of the dollar exchange rate on September 24. The more so, the exchange rate dropped by two roubles, says the statement. All this testifies to the fact the bank still controls the hard currency exchange rate.

According to the bank's press service, mass media reports on termination of currency interventions can only stir up passions at the exchange and lead to enhanced negative processes in the Russian economy.

Government May See Gerashchenko as 'Fall Guy'

MK2509095293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 93 p 2

[Aleksey Podorozhanskiy and Ivan Storozhev report under the "Finances" rubric: "Central Bank of Russia Stops Ruble's Falling. Government Forms Closer Association With Central Bank"]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia [CBR] has managed to stop the fall of the ruble at the 1297 rubles per dollar mark through titanic efforts and powerful interventions. Exchange market sources say that intervention by CBR in trading on 22 and 23 September topped 60 percent of all currency sales at the Moscow Interregional Currency Exchange.

Quite obviously, the falling ruble rate could not have been halted through any interventions on 22 and 23 September owing to the political situation. Panic reigned at the currency market, and it was unclear how the market would react to more substantial supplies of hard currency from CBR reserves. It was quite probable that participants in the trading would dump all their cash rubles to flee from the ruble, the only restriction being the rate rather than the amount that could be offered.

As early as 24 September, however, the ruble's fall was no longer seen as spurred by panic but by a quite logically explainable and controllable trend. The CBR put on the market nearly three-quarters of the sales offer, thus not only managing to halt the rise in the dollar rate but also to make it drop by two points (the rate on 23 September was 1299 rubles to the dollar).

The subordination of the CBR to the government and the reappointment by the president of Viktor Gerashchenko as chairman of the bank's board may pursue three goals: first, to use Gerashchenko's reputation both in Russia and abroad; second, to have a "fall guy" in the event the reforms fail (and an opportunity to remove the banker if need be); third, to keep Mr. Gerashchenko "on

a short leash" so as to finance early elections and make other unforeseen expenditures.

Yesterday's remarks by Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets show that the government would like to be able to avoid coming into contact with the country's banking system and to effect payments to the power engineering, metallurgical, and timber industries directly through the Central Bank, which is quite sensible and represents a concrete step toward a "closer working association" between the government and the CBR.

Federov's Role in Bank's Currency Policy Examined

MK2409091193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[Yuriy Gorskiy report under "Finances" rubric: "Gerashchenko Strikes a Blow. But It Is Not Clear Who Initiated the Blow"]

[Excerpt] The placement of the Russian Central Bank under the control of the Russian president has shaken its leadership. In addition to the fact that the Central Bank's building was cordoned off, Gerashchenko has found himself accountable to his tough opponent—Finance Minister Fedorov.

The termination of hard currency interventions "in view of the political instability," which occurred on 22 September, has resulted in a surge of the dollar rate to 1,102 rubles and compounded political instability with economic instability.

Even so, along with large-scale hard currency interventions, which are an instrument of currency policy, the Central Bank has apparently also abandoned so-called "technical" interventions—an inalienable element of the functioning mechanism at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange.

The need for interventions manifests itself most often in periods of upheaval, when, with a limited volume of currency supply on the market, there is a sufficient number of buyers ready to buy it at virtually any price.

As a result, the supply and demand curves move either in parallel or show a slight trend for convergence. To prevent their crossing at some point, which is fraught with exchange rate increases perilous to the country, the Central Bank effects currency intervention, cutting off the resulting corridor, as it were.

At the 23 September trading session this corridor was not "cut off," which brought about both a record length of trading and a fantastic increase in the exchange rate—up to 1,297 rubles per dollar. For the national economy the jump of the dollar on Wednesday and Thursday alone means an inflation impulse of nearly 25 percent—a monthly norm in two days, so to speak!

A crisis of such dimensions would be understandable if the Central Bank had no resources. This is plausible since hard currency interventions could well have exhausted its reserves. However, according to some information, this is not the case.

The coincidence of the economic and political shocks is alarming: the Central Bank's currency reserves "ran out" the moment its building was surrounded by OMON [special purpose militia detachments].

Thus the Central Bank's actions, apart from other things, were aimed at destabilizing the currency market and with it, the entire Russian economy. Politically, they are of a clearly unambiguous character and are directed against the current government of the Russian Federation.

It needs to be stressed that the fall of the ruble by 25 percent in the last two days has also affected world financial markets: The rate of the dollar, boosted by Gaydar's appointment, dropped considerably following reports about the position of the Central Bank's leadership—even though the cessation of hard currency interventions was one of the points in the agreement reached at one time between Gerashchenko and Fedorov. Therefore it cannot be ruled out that the cessation was undertaken by Gerashchenko not on his own initiative but on direct instructions from Fedorov who is translating his monetarist ideas into life (acting through the power structures to which Gerashchenko is now accountable).

Such a situation is far more dangerous since, whereas the "defeated" Gerashchenko can be brought to reason, apparently there is no one to do this with the "victorious" Fedorov.

At this point we are directly confronted with a global problem that will remain acute until 11 December: the absence of a counterbalance.

In spite of everything, the executive branch needed the parliament both in order to shift responsibility for some of its own mistakes and as a cushion to protect the executive branch from implementing some of its least effective decisions.

Deprived of the parliament, the executive power has lost not only the shackles around its feet. Now it bears exclusive responsibility for everything that is going on in the country. Moreover, the probability of its making mistakes has seriously increased. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministry Plans Measures To Stabilize Ruble

LD2409204993 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] In the opinion of the Finance Ministry, September saw no major changes in Russia's financial and economic policy. The limits for growth in centralized credit were exceeded slightly, but a mass injection of an inflationary volume of money was prevented. In order to maintain the ruble's exchange rate, the government's credit policy commission has set the limit for the growth in centralized credit to finance the budget deficit in the

fourth quarter at 4.6 trillion rubles; it was decided to cover the shortage of financial resources above the planned deficit by cutting nonpriority spending and looking for new sources of revenue.

The Finance Ministry believes that the sharp fall in the ruble's rate of exchange on 23 September was caused not by economic factors, but by the political situation in the country and the inability of the Central Bank of Russia to respond efficiently to events by using the existing monetary and credit policy instruments. The Finance Ministry, for its part, intends to take all necessary measures to guarantee the stability of the ruble's exchange rate. The Central Bank's interest rate has been increased to 180 percent, and it is due to rise to 200 percent under a government decision. Interest rates on Savings Bank deposits will rise considerably from 1 October, a step which is meant to stabilize the situation. In addition, the government has approved the issue of a 1993 gold bond worth an amount equivalent to 100 tonnes of gold (over 1 trillion rubles). This will likewise help to "tie up" commercial banks' liquid funds and reduce the government's inflationary borrowings from the Central Bank of Russia.

Soskovets Reviews Economic Situation

LD2409151993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1014 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Interview with First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets by Vladimir Kalinovskiy; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Kalinovskiy] Oleg Nikolayevich, is the government working in accordance with its former plans and its former agenda, or have any significant changes taken place?

[Soskovets] Of course, the situation we are in now requires more intensive participation on the part of the government in the life of our entire country and in the life of regions. That's why we are introducing certain amendments to the procedure of the government's work. Of course, they are connected with more specific and more detailed interaction and cooperation with subjects, farms, enterprises, and regions. Undoubtedly, we have not changed the main direction of the government's activities. Issues relating to the stabilization of the economy are the first priority, and that is what we are doing today.

[Kalinovskiy] Regarding the sphere of the operational management of the economy, are there any new elements or new moments?

[Soskovets] Undoubtedly, when speaking today about a changeover to market relations, we must assess the situation and take an appropriate part and appropriate measures for participating in the organization of life, in the organization of production and of these or those types of our activities. In particular, at present the government is concentrating great attention on the preparations for work and life in the winter period. Taking into consideration economic difficulties regarding nonpayments and the lack of financing for some industries, we are taking operational measures to create the necessary winter stocks of fuel, especially in the Far East regions, which received significantly less fuel and have no winter stocks. We are paying a lot of attention to finishing the grain harvesting—to date 70 percent of the grain has been threshed on the entire territory of Russia—and to all issues related to the organization and functioning of defense complex enterprises—many decisions were taken on the work of machine- building enterprises. That's what we are specifically doing at the moment.

[Kalinovskiy] In the situation that has evolved, one might be afraid of some resistance on the part of individual structures or at the regional level. Do you feel anything similar?

[Soskovets] You know, production has changed significantly for the better over the past year, and I think that attempts observed in collectives are connected with the stabilization of production, with the improvement of productivity and the volume of production, and with a search for new types of goods in connection with the conversion of enterprises. Today, I think that none of the collectives wants to lose these positions. That's why all the political trends we have here in the capital at present are undoubtedly of interest to the regions, but, I think, today production activities are the main concern for leaders of enterprises, leaders of regions, and people carrying them out.

[Kalinovskiy] You do not feel any elements of temporizing, if not to say resistance, here.

[Soskovets] Absolutely not. We are constantly monitoring the situation. It is necessary to monitor the situation because there may be different things, up to and including provocations—as happened in Moscow yesterday. That's why labor collectives and enterprises are geared up to work now. There are no doubts that in this case political ambitions will not affect our production collectives and our regions.

[Kalinovskiy] Tell me please, in connection with the latest events in the political sphere, has there appeared any feeling of, let's say, uncertainty in some economic structures?

[Soskovets] You know, today the government is trying to create all the conditions for consolidating the certainty connected with everyday production. I think that those who try to bring discord to our life and our economy, they should ask themselves what they are doing it for. I do not think that today there is anybody in our society who is more interested in the stabilization of our economic life and our life in general than the members of the government.

[Kalinovskiy] Now that the conflict between the two branches of power is being resolved in this way, can one expect that some processes in the economy may be speeded up?

[Soskovets] Undoubtedly, taking into account the latest decisions adopted by the president in the form of decrees and proposed for implementation by the government today, I must admit that many of the government's initiatives connected with the implementation through legislative procedures of these or those proposals have been suspended for some time for various reasons. I think that now by the president's acts and the government's decisions we will speed up the realization and implementation of many decisions that the government proposed as initiatives.

[Kalinovskiy] Could you be more specific with regard to decisions?

[Soskovets] I would like to say that a law on enterprises and entrepreneurship in Russia is one of the major issues that we have been trying to implement for quite a long time. I must admit that for over half a year this law has been under consideration in various committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet. It is being postponed for various reasons—I simply cannot speak about them now—its implementation is being postponed. The issue regarding the organization of the national economy's management is now very topical for the government. What form of management? Joint-stock enterprises? State-owned ones? Fiscal enterprises? All these issues have come to the foreground as no society can exist without management.

[Kalinovskiy] Do you have any apprehensions that what happened in some regions may, if not facilitate the disruption of ties with the center, than cause the reduction of its possibilities to influence economic activities in a region?

[Soskovets] You know, I'm inclined to give such an appraisal because I've had to do a great deal of work not in the center, but in a factory, in an ordinary district. I must say that the more freedom we give on a regional level—we delegate these rights from the center here, with appropriate legal and financial support—the greater will be the effect of this production activity.

[Kalinovskiy] The Russian Central Bank has been resubordinated to the government by presidential decree. What can one expect, in that connection, in the economic field?

[Soskovets] You know, one of the most difficult problems and tasks at the moment is undoubtedly the work of banks as regards ensuring the financial activities of enterprises. The system of non-payments in the national economy has attained, let's say, a critical level, and the process is not stabilizing today, unfortunately, but, on the contrary, the accumulation is also leading to the loss of control over the economic situation and the production of enterprises not by the center, but at the actual enterprises. Credit indebtedness between enterprises is already reaching one trillion rubles, and that situation demands a definite search for ways whereby bank structures would have an interest in its stabilization. After all, it is impossible today through Finance Ministry injections to remedy the non-payment situation, which must be brought into the normal working life of the banking system. I think that the situation that has now developed over the subordination of the Central Bank to the president and the government will be directed towards a search for ways of resolving this problem, which I think is one of the most important.

[Kalinovskiy] On the whole, Oleg Nikolayevich, do you feel sufficiently confident that, as I have understood from your answers, the political crisis will have no effect on the economic situation, the governability of the economy and so on?

[Soskovets] You know, we have been in contact with the regions and with the leaders of enterprises over a lengthy period of time, and I must be completely frank with you—everyone is tired of this situation and everyone is demanding just one thing: sort out these relations, sort out this situation, because these various political problems are constantly getting in the way of various production processes and are destabilizing the situation.

Therefore, I believe that resolutions have been adopted and now we simply have to implement them. No one should harbor any fears today about their future because new elections to a new parliament have been announced today and a presidential election has also been announced. Everyone should just get on with doing what they have to, sharing power as well as they can. We must just start working. In the government today, we are inclined to simply take this line.

[Kalinovskiy] And you have not received any other signals from the regions?

[Soskovets] I must say that life is not ideal and I have to say that the majority of regions and the majority of our manufacturers and the heads of collectives support the line elaborated by the president and the government. Once again, I must repeat that this is the case for the majority, and this is what we are basing our actions on because there is, of course, a lot of opposition—you only have to look at what is happening in Moscow today—so this is what we are basing our practical actions on today. The center of all phenomena in a political crisis is usually to be found in the capital. This has always been the case. It happened in August 1991 and today. I think that the sooner we resolve these problems here, then the calmer the situation in the regions will be.

What is needed today for example by a worker at the Magnitogorsk metallurgical combine [word indistinct]? There are 65,000 men working there. Why should the soviets there speak out against one policy or another conducted here in Moscow? The work of the collective is stable. I constantly find within the sphere of information at my disposal—and I must be frank with you—that the

situation is not worsening. It is stabilizing and improving. At the moment we have some problematic points that need to be put in order, connected, as I have already said with the way the banking system and the credit and finance systems are working. Today, we need to cre..e the prerequisites for forming, among other things, market relations. But the main thing is to create an awareness of the fact that we now find ourselves in a totally different situation regarding the way we conduct all the economic and manufacturing links within our national economy.

[Kalinovskiy] Thank you.

To Head Staff To Stabilize Economy

MK2409174793 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Sep 93 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report: "Government Supervises Economy. Priority Given to Resolving Economic Problems"]

[Text] The logic of the Russian Government's actions in the days following Boris Yeltsin's statement has been determined primarily by the role that tends to be assigned to the executive branch in critical periods. The past day confirmed experts' forecasts that the main area of the cabinet's work in the conditions of its exclusive responsibility for the state of the economy would be confined to economic matters. Yesterday, a staff for the operational management of the national economy was set up. At the same time, the Council of Ministers has avoided drastic measures, leaving the president the opportunity to be active in the political scene.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers Presidium yesterday confirmed the government's desire to concentrate efforts on solving economic matters. At the very beginning, the meeting decided to set up a staff for the operational management of the national economy under First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. Thus, the government is creating a system for gathering day-to-day information on the situation in the regions and, most importantly, a mechanism for enforcing its decisions on the ground. It is this function of the staff that will undoubtedly be in the center of attention. The thing is that once its traditional opponent is removed, the Council of Ministers has to shoulder full responsibility for the economic situation in the country (unlike, for instance, the situation at the end of 1991, when the president, who was entrusted with special powers, and the government had to share responsibility for economic transformations). Formerly, only the USSR Government was fully in control of the country's finances. Now the Chernomyrdin cabinet also exercises such control—in addition to the Central Bank, which was subordinated to the Council of Ministers earlier, it was given all the extra budget funds, including the largest one, the pension fund. This came about after the prime minister signed the decree "On Urgent Measures To Ensure Financial Stabilization."

At the same time, the cabinet's current economic policy cannot but be ambiguous. However, this line of conduct is presently fully justifiable—the risk that the electorate will finally fall out with the authorities makes it impossible to resort to tight fiscal measures aimed at increasing the budget's revenues by introducing new taxes. In effect, the decree is a substantially abridged version of a draft presidential edict drawn up earlier by Boris Fedorov. The most unpopular measures, however, were taken out, such as introducing new and substantially increasing old taxes. On the other hand, the government's actions on the eve of the annual IMF session (it will open on Saturday) are intended to reaffirm its course toward financial stabilization. To this end, yesterday Chernomyrdin signed a decree lifting monthly markups on grain purchasing prices and liberalizing prices of grain purchased by the state. However, this was done only after harvesting was effectively over.

This confirms KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts' forecasts that the most likely scenario of events will be the government's attempt to marry declarations about its commitment to financial stabilization with measures aimed at ensuring political stability.

This also gives an exhaustive explanation for retaining, at least in the short run, the cabinet's fairly diverse lineup. The results of yesterday's meeting of the Council of Ministers Presidium confirm that the "liberal" wing in the government has somewhat increased its clout. At the same time, Soskovets' appointment as chief of the operational management staff (Gaydar also vied for this post) testifies to the continuing influence of the industrial bloc.

Pension Fund Put Under Government Control

PM2709121193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Tatyana Khudyakova: "Pension Fund Transferred to Government Subordination"]

[Text] A government decree cites among measures designed to ensure financial stabilization the transfer of the Russian Federation Pension Fund to become subordinate to the government. The fund can conduct its activity on the basis of an approved budget and by agreement with the Ministry of Finances.

Will the change of "owner" affect the fate of the 35 million people who receive pensions? In no circumstance, the Ministry for the Social Protection of the Population assured us. They will all receive on time the money to which they are entitled.

That the transfer of the fund's subordination will put an end to the protracted "pitched battle" between the government and legislators and make it possible to implement the president's edict on the creation of a single federal pension service, which saw the light of day back in May, is another matter.

Let me recall that it is a case of creating a single structure which would manage all questions of pension provision—from assigning pensions to financing and paying them. This has been planned for a single purpose—improving services for citizens. In addition the reorganization will make it possible to coordinate the policy for financing social programs, to improve the material and technical base for pensions, to create a single data bank, and to computerize information.

As for the compulsory coordination of payments with the Ministry of Finances mentioned in the decree, that means that all the Pension Fund's accounts will transfer to the control of the Ministry of Finances and money from them will be transferred in strict accordance with the approved budget.

Yeltsin Names New Pension Fund Chief

LD2409162893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a report from the press service of the Russian federation president. It says that today, Russian President Yeltsin dismissed Aleksandr Vladimirovich Kurtin, chairman of the board of the pension fund, and entrusted the duties of the chairman of the fund's board to Vasiliy Vasilyevich Barchuk.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Foreign Investment

LD2709142193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 27 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation today signed a decree "to improve work with foreign investments". The document stipulates several concrete measures to attract more foreign investments to the country, says a report released by the presidential press service.

In accordance with the decree, the activities of foreign investors on the entire territory of the Russian Federation may be restricted only by the laws of the Russian Federation and decrees issued by the Russian president. New laws laying down the conditions for operating joint-stock enterprises, except acts ensuring more privileged conditions for their work, shall not be applied for three years to enterprises that had existed on the date when these acts took effect. All the other bodies of state power have the right to adopt only preferential, but not restrictive normative acts affecting the working conditions of foreign capital.

The Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation was instructed to draw up draft laws of the Russian Federation "on amendments and supplements to the laws of the RSFSR", "on foreign investments in the RSFSR", on free economic zones", and "on concessions", as well as proposals for amending the tax legislation, and also several other concrete measures with a view to ensuring favourable conditions for the attraction of foreign capital to economic sectors of primary importance.

The decree comes into force from the moment it is signed and shall be submitted for approval to the federal assembly of the Russian Federation.

Council of Ministers Adopts Decision on Bank Credits

LD2609130593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Text] Acording to a ROSINFORM report, the Russian Council of Ministers has adopted a decision under which credits from Central Bank resources are granted only at the Central Bank rate of 25 September. The document instructs the Finance Ministry to compensate for the difference between the interest rates on earlier preferential credits and to do so strictly within the limits of the remaining funds envisaged by the republican budget for this purpose.

Banks Seen To Need Time 'Without Competition'

PM2709112193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Sep 93 p 7

[Yevgeniy Anisimov report under the "The Economy This Week" rubric: "Interbank Wars: Foreign Banks Mount Counterstrike"]

[Text] Throughout last week we were all able to see signs emerging that made it possible to form an unerring judgment on the position at the front line: Our bankers are determined to persuade the parliament and the government to recognize their priority over foreign banks. For their part the foreign banks gently flexed their powerful muscles, but that was enough to make many people somewhat edgy. The tussle was reminiscent of the pug-dog yapping at the elephant in Krylov's fable, with the Russian bankers, alas, in the former role. However, the consequences of the interbank war go considerably beyond the horizons visible today.

I will briefly remind readers of the situation obtaining in the theater of war prior to the start of the events being described.

During discussion of the draft Law on Banks and Banking Activity the Association of Russian Banks [ARB] categorically demanded that the Central Bank and parliament's Planning and Budget Commission — the main drafters of the document—impose a two-year delay on foreign banks wanting to service not just nonresidents but also wholly Russian firms. That is to say, they proposed that limited licenses be issued. The drafters apparently agreed to this. However, the law, now adopted by parliament, has been sent back by the Russian president for finalization with his own amendments which include one that has aroused the ARB's ire and indignation: Foreign banks are to obtain a full license from the moment the law is enacted.

Actually there are just two paragraphs in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree on enacting the law. Having somehow managed to resolve disputes among the president's team on other amendments, the parliamentarians and bankers have been completely unable to reach agreement on these paragraphs. The main events took place in the parliamentary subcommission on banks, as a complete reversal of opinion suddenly emerged among its members: First they defended the national banks, now suddenly they had decided to free the foreign banks' hands. It should be said that representatives of the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank, Planning and Budget Commission head A. Pochinok, and four deputies are on the subcommission. The Central Bank and Finance Ministry adopted, strange though it may seem, similar positions: The foreign banks must be authorized to do what they want (why the opinion of the two main opponents should suddenly concur we shall discuss a little later). Pochinok equally unambiguously demanded that the rights of foreign banks be limited. While the deputies changed their position. And this is why.

According to information from reliable sources, subcommission member V. Rasskazov (All-Russia Exchange Bank), along with Deputy P. Medvedev, is connected with the setting up of the "Energo-Bank." The All-Russia Exchange Bank is one of its founders; Medvedev's link here is less clear. American and Japanese banks are other founders of the "Energo-Bank." They naturally have an interest in creating conditions which will enable the new bank to operate to full capacity on Russian soil. The other deputies clearly acted in accordance with the principle of corporate unity: What is good for our guys is good for us too. As a result the majority of votes in the subcommission sided with the foreign banks. In point of fact only Pochinok voted against them.

The Finance Ministry and the Central Bank of Russia, which found themselves on the same side of the barrricades, justify their position by saying that the Paris and London Clubs of creditors would be displeased by any restriction of foreign banks' rights on the territory of Russia. These clubs comprise around 600 of the world's biggest banks. Russia owes them approximately $80 billion. Were the clubs to stiffen the rate of interest, let alone the terms of repayment of the credit itself, the country's economy would be in a fix. This is a strong argument, but Pochinok, whose intelligence and understanding of the situation cannot be denied, counters it with ease: If the Russian economy collapses, if the country explodes (and that is inevitable if the clubs adopt a rigid stance), the whole of European and world order will be swept away by the fragments from the blast and chaos will set in that does no one any good. And that is understood by the whole world. So the clubs' threats of sanctions are bluff.

What, then, will happen if the foreign banks arrive in the Russian financial market as equal partners to domestic banks?

Is it not dreadful that they are able to offer 200 kinds of banking services while ours can only offer 30? Russians still do not understand why they need, say, a trust, as with many other services on offer from the foreign banks. They are not mature enough yet. Is it not dreadful too that foreign banks can transfer money in a matter of hours—ours can do that too, but often the service seems expensive to our enterprises. Something else that is dreadful.

The assets of the biggest foreign banks are measured in hundreds of billions of dollars while the assets of our national Central Bank stood at R10.5 trillion as of 1 January 1993. That is to say, the most run-of-the-mill bank by world standards easily surpasses all our banks taken together. We do, incidentally, have experience with foreign banks in our market now. The Moscow International Bank has not, according to the "Inkombank" leadership, given a single cent in hard-currency credit to Russian companies throughout its existence. The Moscow International Bank keeps all its money abroad, siphoning currency back there like a well-tuned, high-powered pump.

Possessing a huge safety margin, the foreign banks are in a position to wipe out all competitors in the Russian marketplace, setting rock-bottom prices for their services; they can even switch to free banking. Then, a couple of years on, having eliminated the Russian banks, they will take the control levers of our economy into their hands. "So what!" might be a reasonable response. Let them teach us how to do things...

If the matter were limited just to control over the economy, it would be a minor misfortune; our national pride would be wounded, but no more. However, the consequences will go much deeper. The first thing to occur will be indignation among the national bourgeoisie, which will be forced to throw itself into the arms of the national patriots, as only they will preach an ideology close to Russian bankers' hearts. In addition to money, the bankers will bring their work expertise, contacts, and level-headed way of thinking. The nationalists will then become a force to be reckoned with.

A securities market, if we had one, would instantly exhibit more far-reaching consequences. Shares in the raw-materials sectors would immediately rise while shares in enterprises manufacturing finished goods would fall to zero. It is only natural that the foreign banks will channel all the infusions of money into those sectors which meet the needs of their own clients, that is to say, into the extraction of oil, gas, and ore. The other sectors, regardless of their potential (like, say, the military-industrial complex) will exist at best on starvation rations and will service the international corporations, producing spare parts for Nissans, say. However, the whole country cannot exist on the income derived from selling raw materials and spare parts. The collapse of the national economy will be absolutely unavoidable—the foreign banks have nothing to gain by producing competitors for their long-standing clients. We will

become—it is irreversible by this stage—a raw materials appendage of foreign companies. But what happens when the mineral wealth runs out? It is dreadful even to contemplate answering that question.

Is this prospect really hidden from state thinking? Certainly not. They have been forced to choose between two evils: either to give a point-blank refusal to the foreign banks and run the risk of worsening relations with foreign creditors, or to let them into the country and put its future at risk. By all accounts, the short-sighted view of things is prevailing.

The Finance Ministry is worried by the IMF's threats to freeze its $1.5 billion line of credit. A special IMF delegation, which is to decide the fate of those billions, has come to Russia, and we need to make a good impression on it. And the IMF's demands are well known: free prices, free exchange of currency on the country's territory, and a free hand for foreign entrepreneurs. The Central Bank—this will please the international finance organizations—wants the same, believing that it will be able to keep the situation under control later. But it will not be able to—it will be too late, the economy will become hooked on the foreign banks' hard currency drug. The "cold turkey" will be terrible.

Boris Fedorov also needs the IMF to apply pressure, because his own position in the government has deteriorated to the point where his resignation is likely in the very near future. Economics Minister Lobov, whose views are known to diverge from Fedorov's, has drastically stepped up his activity and is even, according to rumors, seeking a candidate to replace Fedorov. In short, the alignment of political forces is not in favor of Russia's bankers or, ultimately, Russia's future.

But while the deputies have been mired in intrigue, more and more foreign banks have been obtaining licenses. Credit Lyonnais, which was first to get into the Russian market, is awaiting the development of events; a branch of the Dresdner Bank has opened; and a general license to carry out settlements in both hard currency and rubles has been obtained by Credit Suisse—one of the three largest Swiss banks, with a balance sheet at the end of June 1993 totaling more than $160 billion...

What do the Russian banks need? Two years of relatively tranquil operation without competition from foreign banks. The assets of the Foreign Trade Bank of Russia [Vneshtorgbank] as of 1 January 1993 were R1.7 trillion, and by the end of the first quarter of this year they had doubled to R3.5 trillion. The banks are developing very dynamically, and in a couple of years they will be able to put up at least some kind of competition to the foreign banks.

Federov Discusses Prospects for Economic Reform

AU2409185793 Budapest PESTI HIRLAP in Hungarian 24 Sep 93 p 9

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov by "AN News Panorama"; place and date not given: "Boris Fedorov on the Reform Processes in Russia"]

[Text] The 35-year-old Russian deputy premier and finance minister is regarded as one of the key figures of the economic reform in Russia. We asked Boris Fedorov whether it is personal antipathy or incompatibility of economic concepts behind his conflict with Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko.

[Fedorov] There is no personal antipathy whatsoever involved here, because I have never worked with Gerashchenko; he was neither my boss nor my teacher. He even helped me on my first assignment in London. I was glad to see him as head of the Central Bank.

[PESTI HIRLAP] Are you disappointed with him?

[Fedorov] I thought that a person who worked in a bank for years, a person who comes from a family of bank officials and who lived abroad for 15 years, would conduct a normal financial policy. Compared with Matukhin, he had a better insight into the banking world. However, the position he represents contradicts the market economy. Gerashchenko is a man brought up on party discipline, and he does not do anything without orders from above; therefore, it sounds very strange that the currency change carried out in July was his idea.

[PESTI HIRLAP] What is the monetary policy of the Russian Government like? What will happen in the autumn? What will happen to the prices?

[Fedorov] We are not the ones who set the prices.

[PESTI HIRLAP] You never develop models, you just improvise?

[Fedorov] No country determines things, and no one can tell in advance what the prices and the exchange rate will be.

[PESTI HIRLAP] People say that you are a person who does not give money to anyone. If it is not in the budget, if it contradicts the state interests, or if it is clear that the credit provided to the agricultural sector disappears even before it reaches the sector, then why give money at all?

[Fedorov] The current taxes are so high that they simply decapitate the reform, because the enterprises and the entrepreneurs turn against the reforms. We can only reduce taxes if expenses are reduced. Raising spending and cutting taxes—this is the world of "non-scientific" fantasy. Although tax burdens are very high in Russia, they are not the highest in the world.

[PESTI HIRLAP] Does the government show understanding toward your concepts?

[Fedorov] I can mainly count on myself, but both Chubays and Chernomyrdin understand me. At least I hope they do.

[PESTI HIRLAP] A lot is said about corruption, and then every case is slowly forgotten, and there is no culprit....

[Fedorov] Neither the Prosecutor's Office nor the Interior Security Ministry provides the desired answer, and this is very strange. Therefore, it would be very useful to place the tax authorities and the economic police under the jurisdiction of the Finance Ministry. At the debate on the tax police bill, I suggested to transfer it from parliamentary control to us, but parliament rejected this proposal.

[PESTI HIRLAP] Is the population hindering your reforms?

[Fedorov] The population? The population is clinging to reform with both hands. How many enterprises and private ventures have emerged recently? Several hundred thousand. People are beginning to forget the state; a change in the people's way of thinking has begun. In my opinion, simple people here are much more prepared for the market economy than the capitalists, because people who survived the party dictatorship here, founded a livelihood, obtained meat, and arranged to be sent to spas will not be lost in a market economy either.

IZVESTIYA Profiles Minister Davydov

PM2809131593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Leskov report: "New Foreign Economic Relations Minister Had No Intention of Refusing Appointment"]

[Text] After Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergey Glazyev resigned in connection with his disagreement with the presidential edict "On Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform," his first deputy, Oleg Davydov, was appointed to this key post. But straight away rumors spread, which were corroborated by certain radio stations, that the new minister had refused the appointment.

Oleg Davydov is on vacation in Poland at the moment, which in itself cast doubt on the likelihood of such a quick refusal of the post. As IZVESTIYA managed to find out, a telephone conversation took place on Wednesday between Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and the candidate for the ministerial post. Davydov agreed to the offer and he has not repudiated his statement subsequently. Until the new minister returns from vacation, his duties are being carried out by the other first deputy, Ivan Materov, who on Thursday presented the last document prepared by Glazyev, on state quotas for 1994, at a sitting of the Council of Ministers Presidium.

Minister Oleg Davydov was born in 1940, and he received a higher economic education. A substantial part of his work experience is connected with various foreign trade structures. Davydov was deputy chairman of "Atomenergoeksport," an economic advisor in Libya, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and, since January 1993—first deputy minister of foreign economic relations. According to comments made, Davydov is a top-class professional, but he is not predisposed to resolute innovations.

As for Sergey Glazyev, who is also away on vacation at present, devoting this vacation to the affairs of his department, however, then his career is by no means over. Given the high assessment of his business and moral qualities—and the two opposing camps alike have no doubts about this—there is a great likelihood of a new appointment for the 32-year-old retired minister to a responsible post in the near future. It cannot be ruled out that in the complex political situation, Glazyev decided to follow the ancient Chinese aphorism which says that a wise man prefers to sit on a mountain in safety and observe how a fight between two tigers ends.

Observers are also noting the fact that Glazyev's resignation was handed in on the same day as First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, his vehement opponent in the government, returned to carry out his duties. This also decreases the significance of an underlying political reason for Glazyev's renunciation which, incidentally, he only mentioned in passing in his statement to the president.

New Laws Aim To Regulate Status of Cooperatives, Farms

PM2809131393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Yelena Yakovleva commentary: "Kolkhozes Do Not Really Know What They Are"]

[Text] The Russian Government has prepared two laws which may substantially affect the situation in the agrarian sector: one "On Agricultural Cooperatives" and the other"On Making Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On Peasant (Private) Farms.'"

The law "On Agricultural Cooperatives" introduces a badly needed new organizational and legal form of entrepreneurial activity which facilitates the course of the agrarian reform. A country which at the beginning of the century had the world's best legal base and an incredible upsurge of social and economic creativity in the sphere of cooperative movement today exists in a state of confusion: The title "cooperative" is included in the charter of organizations (kolkhozes and consumer cooperative establishment) which in reality are not cooperatives. And cooperatives in name only eagerly line up for all sorts of concessions which are badly needed by private farms and their cooperative associations as they get back on their feet again. The new law is called upon to define what constitutes a true cooperative, its organizational principles, and the mechanism by which it functions.

It is interesting that the authors of the law "On Making Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On Peasant (Private) Farms,'" after gathering together specific experience of private farming in recent years, first of all hastened to distance themselves from the many bogus private farmers and deleted from the Article 1 the right of "other parties acting as a group" to create private farms. It is enough if they are a family or an individual citizen who does not necessarily possess the rights of a juridical person. The right to choose a candidate to create a peasant farm belongs to the local administration, not to the soviet.

Both laws are an attempt to provide a proper legal basis for this new sector of the rural economy. But the old sector (the kolkhozes and sovkhozes), which accounts for approximately one-third of all farms, is in an ambiguous position. In the law "On Enterprises and Entrepreneurial Activities" kolkhozes and sovkhozes are simply not mentioned, but in reality they do actually exist, since subsequent executive orders granted them the right to reregister under their own names.

End of Grain Price Indexation Delayed in Some Regions

MK2409134493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Sep 93 p 2

[Yevgeniy Timofeyev report: "Grain Price Indexation Abolished. State Stops Grain Price Indexation"]

[Text] Yesterday's guess by KOMMERSANT-DAILY that the government's immediate moves would be directed primarily at creating a semblance of cuts in state outlays has found its first confirmation. Yesterday, a Russian Government decree "On Abolishing Indexation Prices of Agricultural Products Purchased From the 1993 Harvest for the Federal Food Funds" was officially circulated.

The government decided on the monthly indexation of recommended purchasing prices of grain, oil seeds, and sugar-beets at an average rate of 1.1 on 30 July in view of the agricultural community's sweeping reluctance to turn grain over to the state. Since at that time prices were raised considerably (they even exceeded those on the exchange market) despite active opposition from Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, the desired result was achieved and the funds started to fill up quickly. Though they are virtually full today and the abolition of indexation is not going to result in any appreciable budget cuts, it is a demonstration of the government's commitment to financial stabilization. That the government's seemingly tough move is mostly superficial is confirmed by the fact that in making this decision, the government took into consideration the geographical factor: whereas indexation is to be abolished as of 1 October in Russia's western part, it is to be abolished in the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East as of 1 November—meaning that prices there will be indexed one more time. Thus the "wolves" (international financial circles) will have a lot to eat and the "sheep" (the agricultural producers) will not be touched.

Food, Consumer Goods Price Increases Noted

PM2809115993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 5

[Report by Gennadiy Bortsov of the Russian State Committee on Prices: "Prices in the Past Week: Even Baking a Few Rusks Could Break the Bank"]

[Text] In the past seven days (7-14 September) the prices of meat and dairy products increased by 2.6 percent, of eggs by 5.5 percent, and of bakery products by 10.6 percent. Vegetable prices fell slightly—by 0.4 percent. In all, the cost of food products went up over the week by 3.2 percent, including increases of 3.4 percent in retail outlets and 2.3 percent at urban markets.

In practice, prices at markets are increasing at roughly the same pace as in stores. And this is wholly explicable: In many oblast centers of Russia, certain "popular" food products are not always available in the stores closest to hand, and the population has to go to the market for them. At the beginning of September, for instance, there were no potatoes or onions at retail outlets in almost 50 percent of cities, and no fresh milk and eggs in one in five cities, while beef was on sale in just one in three.

As of 14 September the average price of beef in Russia (with due account of prices in organized trading establishments and at markets) reached 1,850 rubles [R] per kilogram, while that of butter hit R1,636, part-cooked sausage—R3,358, potatoes—R162, and large onions—R509 per kilogram.

The price of bread and flour products continues to increase rapidly. White bread made from top-quality flour now costs R188 per kilogram, while rye-wheat bread costs R91 per kilogram, crackers R446, and rusks R509.

Prices for industrial consumer goods are making shoppers shudder. For instance, a pair of cotton tights for a child costs over R660 rubles, with the price hitting R1,250 in Ulan-Ude and Blagoveshchensk, while cotton sheets will set you back R2,647, a pair of mens' socks R468, and a ladies' light overcoat in excess of R35,600. In the past week the price of readymade garments and footwear increased again by 6.1 percent, with those of knitwear, electrical goods, and household fuel went up by between 3 and 4 percent.

On average the price of gasoline in Russia increased by 2.6 percent to R125, but over the week it increased sharply in Norilsk (300 percent), Bryansk (30 percent), and Moscow (20 percent). Prices stayed lowest in Orenburg and Orsk, at R72 per liter.

Political Issues

Cabinet Gives Pay Raise to 'Power' Ministries

MK2409090293 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 24 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Power' Ministries Get a Raise"]

[Text] Two Russian Council of Ministers decrees signed shortly before last weekend raise salaries 1.8 times for those wearing shoulder boards. The first to get their raises are Defense Ministry and Internal Affairs Ministry servicemen; the next day salaries will be raised for employees of the Security Ministry and the presidential security service (the Russian Federation Main Security Directorate).

Two weeks before that, all these agencies' demands to the Council of Ministers for a raise were rejected. This happened despite the fact that many military units were paid only 40 percent of the August allowance. And then came this windfall without any obvious reason (before Tuesday). True, there is no knowing when the officers will get it.

Government Said Moving To Limit Role of Unions

MK2409175893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Sep 93 p 3

[Radmir Kilmatov report: "Trilateral Commission Session. Financial Organs Prohibited From Collecting Trade Union Dues"]

[Text] A conference of the Trilateral Commission convened at the government's initiative (the previously called conference was not held due to Finance Minister Boris Fedorov's failure to attend) took place yesterday with a new composition—in default of the leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], representatives of the free trade unions took their seats.

FITUR leaders were originally prepared to take part in the Trilateral Commission's conference despite condemning the president's actions. The previously announced session was called off because the head of the Finance Ministry was absent. Having learned that the agenda would mainly be devoted to the question "On Measures to Implement the Presidential Edict of 20 September," FITUR leaders decided against a visit to Staraya Ploshchad four hours before the opening of the session. Commission coordinator and First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, who had no doubts about such a development, simultaneously forwarded a new agenda and an invitation to representatives of free trade unions (the Independent Miners Union, the Union of Mining and Metallurgical Enterprise Workers, and the Trade Union of Cooperative Workers) to take part. Earlier, participation by the free trade unions was purely token and sporadic.

The commission's new composition clashes with its rules, which provide for constant representation in it by FITUR leaders. Vladimir Shumeyko suggested that, before the rules are amended, the Trilateral Commission hold sessions with representatives of the government, entrepreneurs, and trade unions with no decisions to be made on their results.

The commission's work in the near future will apparently be focused on solving purely procedural matters. At the initiative of trade union representatives who spoke unanimously for a higher status for the Trilateral Commission, it was decided to form a working group to decide on expanding the commission by including in it representatives of the legislative branch, regional administration heads, and leaders of ministries and government agencies.

Thus, the Trilateral Commission's future work would rather create a semblance of dialogue than make it possible for trade union and entrepreneurial structures to take real part in producing concrete decisions by the cabinet. After the official trade unions were barred from a part in the dialogue with the Council of Ministers and their financial base taken away from them (Shumeyko announced that he signed a directive yesterday banning financial organs from collecting trade union dues), the declared partnership with free trade unions—more pliant than the FITUR leadership—is perhaps politically preferable for the government. This is all the more so because, as a result of its financial stabilization policy, the cabinet's opportunities to fulfill in practice the demands of trade union leaders have become limited.

Government Activities, Support for Yeltsin Noted

PM2709144193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Sep 93 p 1

["Executive Branch: Monitoring" feature]

[Excerpts]

Meetings, Conferences, Visits

Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin chaired a regular session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers Presidium on Thursday [23 September]. The following took part in its work: Vladimir Shumeyko, Yegor Gaydar, Sergey Shakhray, Anatoliy Chubays, Boris Fedorov, and Aleksandr Shokhin, as well as Oleg Soskovets and Yuriy Yarov, who had cut short their vacations.

First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar had a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. A broad range of questions connected with backing up economic reforms was discussed.

Yegor Gaydar also held two conferences. One concerned government export policy in the fourth quarter of 1993,

the other was on the preparation of normative acts designed to support the development of economic reforms.

First Vice Premiers Vladimir Shumeyko and Oleg Soskovets and Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov met with government delegations arriving for the conference of CIS heads of state and tackled questions connected with the preparation of the meeting.

Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Sergey Shakray met with journalists at the Russian Press House.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaverukha has been on assignment in Altay Kray. [passage omitted]

From the President's Mailbag

President Yeltsin is receiving many telegrams from Russian Federation citizens expressing support for his course of peacefully extricating the country from economic and political crisis by means of elections. The inhabitants of many regions of the country consider the actions of the first nationally elected president to be correct and timely.

Here are some extracts from telegrams sent to the country's president yesterday:

"Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, the crew of the Novorossiysk Maritime Shipping Company's motor vessel Tsemdolina supports your address and your decrees suspending the activity of the Supreme Soviet and calling elections to a federal assembly. We regard your actions as the only correct ones in the prevailing situation, as actions aimed at benefiting Russia."

"Deputies, show a sense of human conscience, do not resort to bloodshed, resign voluntarily, go back to a peaceful life; your safety is guaranteed by the president's decree. Mr. President, put a stop to the imposters' plans! [signed] Kamyshlov, a veteran."

"Boris, you are right! Stick to it! [signed] The Fitalevs, St. Petersburg."

"Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, we thank you for your courage. Act resolutely. Remember that you are our sole legitimate president, that Russians have faith in you! [signed] Vlasyuk, Zhuchenko, Klesova, 200 signatures in all, Moscow."

Virtually all the messages sent to the president are couched in this vein, the press service reports.

Yeltsin Appoints Security Council Commission Head

LD2809124593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The presidential press service has reported that Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today appointing Mikhail Maley to the post of chairman of the interdepartmental commission of the Russian Security Council on scientific and technical issues of the defense industry, and releasing him from the post of the Russian president's adviser on conversion.

Congratulates Patriarch Aleksiy

LD2809093093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0920 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has congratulated heartily Patriarch Aleksiy the Second of Moscow and all Russia on receiving a reward of the interreligious foundation "Call of Conscience".

Yeltsin said this move of the influential interreligious organization which performers a fair mission of putting together people of different confessions is both objective and natural.

He also said that selfless efforts of Patriarch Aleksiy to promote virtue, peace and Christian love to people in the whole world, as well as his inflexible opposition to evil forces which arouse hostility between different confessions and peoples are deeply appreciated both in and outside Russia.

"This reward is a recognition of the major contribution which you personally and the Russian Orthodox Church make to the cause of peace and concord between the peoples of Russia and the whole world and to the development of the Russian-American friendly relations", Yeltsin stressed.

Greets Peace Congress

LD2809092993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0845 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—President Yeltsin sent today a message of greeting to the 11th congress of the "Physicians of the World for the Prevention of a Nuclear War" movement. It said:

"I welcome wholeheartedly representatives of the 'physicians of the world for the prevention of a nuclear war' movement. You have made a substantial contribution to the termination of the 'Cold War' and helped bring home to people the prospect of a total destruction in case of a worldwide nuclear conflict.

"Your movement, which has a truly global character, has won by right the Nobel Peace Prize.

"I think that in the current situation, on the way to a universal nuclear disarmament, the problem of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons holds a special place. I am sure that your influential public movement will play an important role in that process and, primarily, in the complete and final termination of nuclear arms tests and the implementation of the ecologically safe and economically reasonable conversion process."

Yeltsin wished the congress effective work for the sake of attaining the principal goal of medics—the protection of human life and health.

KGB Archives Reveal Yeltsin's Father Arrested in 1934

LD2709101893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan September 27 TASS—Nikolay Yeltsin, the deceased father of the Russian head of state, was arrested and repressed in Tatarstan 60 years ago when the would-be Russian president was only three years old, according to a two-volume file discovered by Professor Aleksey Litvin in the archive of the former KGB of Tatarstan, a republic within Russia.

Brothers Nikolay and Andrian Yeltsin, as well as other four people from their village, were arrested by Stalinist secret police in 1934 and sentenced by the notorious "troika" revolutionary court to three years in gulag for voicing "dissatisfaction with food (at the canteen of their enterprise), agitation against (purchasing the bonds of) the state loan and calls against providing help to Austrian workers", Litvin told TASS on Monday, quoting the documents.

He added that he has no doubt that the brothers in question were the father and uncle of the Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin because, according to the protocol of interrogation of Nikolay Yeltsin dated May 3, 1934, he listed his close relatives as wife Klavdiya Vasilyevna, 26, and son Boris, three years of age.

Boris Yeltsin's father and uncle arrived in Kazan in December 1932 from the Ural village of Basmanov to build an aircraft factory. They were excellent carpenters and were soon promoted.

However, after a year and a half of work in Kazan, KGB officer Ismagilov initiated a case number 5644 nicknamed as "villagers". Six villagers, including the Yeltsin brothers were arrested", Litvin said, adding that, according to the protocol, no evidence confirming their "guilt" was found.

Litvin said the Yeltsin brothers, in contrast to the other four villagers, categorically refused to collaborate with the KGB. According to the documents, they explained the refusal saying they were "not smart enough" for that.

The KGB then reported to gulag authorities that the Yeltsin brothers "are not liable for recruiting" and should be kept an eye on, according to Litvin.

Nikolay Yeltsin died in 1977, his wife Klavdiya, Boris Yeltsin's mother, - in March 1993.

No Shock Predicted in 'Gaydar's Second Coming'

PM2709150393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Mikhail Berger report: "Yegor Gaydar: There Will be No New Shock"]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar's first appearance with the Russian Government team was accompanied by the shock of price liberalization. Gaydar's second coming, this time without a team and in a somewhat different capacity, does not herald any shock solutions, if one is to judge from his own comments, although the general liberalization of the economy will continue.

Both branches of power, in Gaydar's opinion, have exhausted the possibilities of adopting "palatable" or, to put it more bluntly, populist decisions which give extra money and rights to this or that social group. He characterized the situation in the economy as very bad, and indeed there was nothing surprising in that. What might be regarded as news is that the new vice premier, well known as an advocate of "shock therapy," stated that he is not planning to adopt any unduly harsh shock measures. In his opinion, there is no scope for pursuing a very harsh financial policy now, as there was at the beginning of last year. Last year began in conditions of political carte blanche, but even then his government was dubbed "interim" while the team itself dreamed of doing the main things (releasing prices and launching privatization) and then "waiting to see what happened next."

Now it is necessary to operate against a completely different political background and furthermore today's cabinet is the Chernomyrdin government, not Gaydar's, who has so far been given the portfolio of economy minister. Temporarily, as he himself noted, until Rutskoy appoints someone else to the post...

Admittedly there is one harsh fact which cannot be avoided, Gaydar noted. That is the substantial rise in prices for bread. But to go on subsidizing bread production to the extent that is happening right now is simply impossible. The strategic plans include the further "elimination" of the state from involvement in production, including agricultural production. Furthermore, liberalization here will affect the rules of export and import operations, too. It will also be necessary to revise export duties, which in a number of cases are too high, Gaydar also said, and revise the excessive quota restriction of certain groups of commodities. Of course special attention will also have to be paid to the fight against inflation, which has assumed ominous proportions.

Gaydar will probably try to ensure that the Central Bank does not spend too much on maintaining the rate of the ruble against the dollar. Given the present high rate of inflation this is too costly a measure, in his opinion. The fact that on 23 September the rate plunged to 1299 rubles to the dollar is probably not directly connected

with his actions, but he is clearly not going to propose upholding the exchange rate regardless of the cost.

A characteristic feature of Gaydar "the second" is not so much his somewhat reduced rank but rather the politicized nature of the position. In one of his first interviews in his new capacity he also stated that he remains leader of the "Russia's Choice" bloc. This means that on the one hand his actions will have political support but on the other they could be bound up with party interests. In principle there is no great harm in that, but only as long as Gaydar the politician does not start forcing Gaydar the economist to make populist decisions, whose stock has already been exhausted, as both Gaydars believe.

Documents Said To Expose Barannikov, Dunayev

LD2409104593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—The Interdepartmental Commission for Combatting Crime and Corruption is submitting to the Moscow procurator's office today authentic documents, exposing former security minister Viktor Barannikov and former deputy interior minister Andrey Dunayev.

The papers, shown to the ITAR-TASS correspondent, prove that Anna Dunayeva and Lyudmila Barannikova, the wives of these former high-ranking Russian officials, had purchased 300,000 U.S. dollars worth of luxuries during their visit to Zurich from July 20-24, 1992. Bills obtained from Swiss shops, which are being submitted to the procurator's office, were paid for diamond jewelry, leather and mink coats and swingers, table silver, and gold watches. All these luxuries, delivered to the "Savoy" 5-star hotel for "Madame Anna" and "Madame Lyudmila" paid for by the "Distal" firm, belonging to a brother of the notorious Dmitriy Yakubovskiy. As a matter of fact, ex-security chief Viktor Barannikov initiated the appointment of Dmitriy Yakubovskiy to the post of representative of Russia's law enforcement bodies at the Government of the Russian Federation.

The procurator's office will also be provided with the butts of airline tickets bought for these two ladies by the foregoing firm, as well as hotel bills, footed by the inviting side.

Appended to the file are bills obtained from the "Taki-Moskva" shop in Moscow, totalling about 200,000 U.S. dollars. They prove that Anna Dunayeva and Lyudmila Barannikova had bought for this sum sets of bed-room and dining-room furniture, a white "potceto" hall, a carpet, kitchen furniture, sets of other furniture, chandeliers and bath-room equipment.

All these documents disclose the meaning of the words "unethical behaviour" contained in the presidential decree dismissing Viktor Barannikov from the post of security minister.

The Moscow procurator's office will also be given a certificate from Mr. Geoffrey Chapnik, saying that in initialling the trust agreement, involving Aleksandr Rutskoy, the Canadian notary did business with an authentic document and not its copy.

ITAR-TASS has learned from the Interdepartmental Commission for Combatting Crime and Corruption that all these documents were obtained by Commission Head Andrey Makarov and Chief of the Presidential Control department Aleksey Ilyushenko in Toronto, Zurich and Moscow without any help from Dmitriy Yakubovskiy.

Media Issues

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Staff Seek New Sponsor

MK2509070993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Sep 93 p 1

[Irina Shkarnikova report under the "In Brief" rubric: "ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA To Be Reregistered"]

[Text] Yesterday, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, organ of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, was issued as part of PRAVDA for the last time. In this situation, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA journalists believe that their objective is to maintain the newspaper's staff and profile, and for this purpose they have to find a sponsor who would share their views. They rule out the possibility for their newspaper to exist as the Russian Federation Council of Ministers' organ. The newspaper's staff, unlike the authorities that closed the newspaper, is intent on acting in compliance with the law—according to the Law on the Press they are going to come to work for one more month and decide their future on their own.

Suspension of Publication Detailed

PM2809102593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "'Press' Publishing House Suspends ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Publication"]

[Text] On 24 September subscribers to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA failed to receive the latest issue. The previous evening the newspaper leadership was informed by the publishing house directors that it (the publishing house) was suspending the publication of the newspaper until its re-registration.

As we know, on 23 September Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a decree under which the Russian Government became the legal heir to the Supreme Soviet as founder of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and other publications financed by parliament. Immediately after this D. Tsabriya, deputy minister of press and information, sent the "Pressa" publishing house director a letter in which he mentioned the decree and wrote that until ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is re-registered in connection with the change of founder the publishing house was

"asked to suspend" its publication. The publishing house adopted this proposal as a guideline, and informed the chief editor. The question of who would compensate the subscribers and editorial office collective was not discussed but the editorial collegium issued a statement on the violation of the principles of democracy and freedom of speech and on its loyalty to the previously chosen course.

But so far it is hard to draw final conclusions as to whether the principles of democracy have really been violated or whether it is simply that some officials have displayed excessive zeal in responding to the "suggestion" of others. At least the opposition newspapers PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and even the implacable DEN continue to publish and no one is restricting them in their red-brown assessments of events.

Yeltsin Supporters Said Trying To Control New TV Channel

PM2409134993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Andrey Sharapov report: "Continuation of a Theme: Serve the President and You Get a Channel"]

[Text] Our newspaper has already recounted the trials and tribulations associated with the new NTV [Independent Television] television service's formation and its efforts to establish a foothold either on the fifth or the fourth channel (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 September 1993). The bureaucratic aspects of this story would not have been so interesting except for the fact that they touch upon the fundamental right of citizens to objective information. However, drafts of a letter of defense to the president from the leaders of Ostankino and Russian TV, Bragin and Poptsov, that the editorial office has at its disposal speak volumes about the way in which freedom of speech is perceived.

It seems that "election fever," along with financial difficulties, prompted the two leaders to draw the president's attention to the purely professional problem of the organization of the fourth channel. In their view, there should be a "guarantee of constructive collaboration between the fourth channel and the Russian president's team, especially during the election campaign. To this end, it should be planned beforehand to supplement the channel's leadership with strong professional organizers from the world of television." You can imagine the level of objectivity from a television channel promising to allocate roughly 70 percent of its time "to in-depth news broadcasting"—that is to say, pro-presidential propaganda.

The raison d'etre of the television company leaders is understandable: It is to defend the channel, which served as a bone of contention between the two television companies and as a result became the subject of a relatively amicable carve-up. But what is truly characteristic is how they try to "win over" the president, who juggles the fourth channel from hand to hand like a hot potato.

The planned hand over of the channel, the letter states, "discredits the president in the eyes of television staffers. In this instance, for the third time in nine months the president, through his own decision, is passing the fourth channel from one pair of hands to another. And this may very well spark powerful protest action, right up to and including a strike.... At the very least, it is ill advised to transfer to the opposition to the president the collectives of what are the two largest television companies—Ostankino and the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company [VGTRK]."

Despite the fact that ideologists at the new television channel have as yet in no way marred their devotion to the Kremlin's concept of reforms, the defending side finds a loophole: "For us, we cannot accept the leadership of a company that is scheduled to be set up to broadcast on the fourth channel on the side of persons who have shown themselves to be blatant opponents of the president and his reforms."

Such passages show the true worth of assurances from the Russian information authorities about their dedication to the principles of free speech. The mentality of today's official democracy has gone no further than the principle of personal commitment to the Top Democrat. And, obviously, this is still a long way from an understanding of democracy as serving society as a whole in a Russia intoxicated by one fairy tale after another.

Yeltsin Edict on Reconstituting RIA NOVOSTI Activity

PM2409104793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Edict issued by President Boris Yeltsin "On the Russian News Agency NOVOSTI" in Moscow on 15 September]

[Text] In order to improve the information backup for Russian Federation domestic and foreign policy and keep the Russian and world public better informed about Russians' political, economic, and cultural life using all types of printed, computer, television, radio, and photographic information, and also to develop information and cultural links, I rule that.

1. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government should:

adopt the necessary measures to fully reconstitute the activity of the Russian News Agency NOVOSTI (RIA NOVOSTI);

ensure that Russian Federation Government decisions and also departmental acts on the elimination of RIA NOVOSTI and transfer of its property to newly formed organizations are revoked;

resolve matters connected with ratification of the Statute on the Russian news agency NOVOSTI, with giving it financial and material backing, and with the leadership of RIA NOVOSTI.

2. That part of point 1 of edict No. 37 of the Russian Federation president dated 22 January 1992 "On the RUSSIAN NEWS TELEGRAPH AGENCY (ITAR)" (VEDOMOSTI SYEZDA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV RSFSR I VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA RSFSR No. 5, 1992, p 223) concerning the Russian news agency NOVOSTI is to be deemed invalid.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin

The Kremlin, Moscow, 15 September 1993

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints New Representative in Bryansk

LD2609141093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 26 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast; all names as heard]

[Text] Today President Yeltsin issued a decree appointing Vladimir Alekseyevich Barabanov as his representative in Bryansk Oblast, after releasing Nikolay Viktorovich Ignatkov from this post at Ignatkov's own request.

Suspension of Soviets Threatened

LD2709214493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Sep 93

[All names as heard]

[Text] Fedor Gosporyan, former Supreme Soviet deputy and special representative of the Russian president, has arrived in Bryansk. He is due to assist Vladimir Karpov, apponted by the president to the post of head of the Bryansk Oblast administration. They held a joint news conference today, attended by our correspondent Andrey Anufrikov.

[Anufrikov] The statement by Gosporyan, the president's special representative, was, without exaggeration, a sensation. He said that if the local soviets continue active resistance to the efforts of the executive authority to stabilize the situation in Bryansk Oblast, then following a final warning, their activity might be suspended either by presidential decree or even by a decision of the oblast administration.

Two days ago, Vladimir Karpov, appointed by the president to the post of head of the Bryansk Oblast administration, stressed that he is ready even for these, in his view, extreme measures, but nevertheless hopes that deputies of the local soviets would not allow themselves to be drawn into political games and would start tackling the countless economic, social, and ecological problems of Bryansk Oblast, along with the new executive authority.

Oblast Soviet Backs Dismissed Leader

LD2809131793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast; all names as heard]

[Text] The extraordinary session of the Bryansk Oblast soviet has ended. Following a lengthy debate, proposals that the soviet dissolve itself were swept aside. Having again condemned Yeltsin's decree on gradual constitutional reform, the deputies confirmed the powers of Yuriy Lodkin, head of administration dismissed by the president. His supporters picketed the building where the session was held, and they were also present at the session, noisily expressing their attitude toward what was happening.

The sacked head of administration himself was greatly cheered by the deputies' support:

[Begin Lodkin recording] I can resist, relying on the support of the people and of the oblast soviet session. Most importantly, the Constitutional Court, to which I am obliged to appeal, must pass judgment on this decree. [end recording]

North Ossetia's Galazov, Lozov Discuss Cooperation

PM2709133993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Cooperation in the State of Emergency Zone"]

[Text] Yesterday [North Ossetian Supreme Soviet Chairman] Akhsarbek Galazov met with Vladimir Lozov, head of the interim administration on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

They discussed a range of questions connected with the situation in the state of emergency zone in the context of the political events taking place in Russia. Special attention was paid to stepping up cooperation between the interim administration and the peacemaking forces attached to it and the leadership of North Ossetia.

North Osseta To Extend State of Emergency

LD2709200593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 27 TASS—The Presidium of the North Ossetian Parliament met today to decide on the agenda of the next session of the republic's legislature due to open on Wednesday, September 29.

The importance of the meeting was highlighted by the fact that the republic's leader, Akhsarbek Galazov, chaired it.

The soviet (parliament) will examine the dramatic social, political and strategic situation of the republic in light of the latest poltical turmoil in Russia, a Supreme Soviet spokesman told ITAR-TASS.

In this connection the Parliament is expected to publicise its own view of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent decree, "on gradual constitutional reform in the Russian Federation".

The Parliament also is expected to decide on the further implementation of President Yeltsin's decree concerning its own internal affairs, including the state of emergency in the North Ossetian Mozdok district and the Prigorod district with its outlying areas.

Yeltsin's decree also concerns the neighbouring Ingush Republic, where it introduced the state of emergency in the Nazran and Malgobek districts.

Continued instability in the social, political and economic life in all of the above-mentioned areas has not ceased to concern North Ossetian leaders, among others.

Tatarstan Leader Proposes Volga Regional Entity

PM2809063793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Boris Bronshteyn report: "Tatarstan Vice President Gives Birth To Idea of Union of Volga Regions"]

[Text] Kazan—On returning from the Moscow conference at which the question of creating a Federation Council was discussed, Tatarstan Republic Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev invited your IZVESTIYA correspondent to see him so that he could express his concern in the newspaper at the very acute political processes occurring in the Russian Federation.

Vasiliy Likhachev considers that the development of events in Moscow has brought Russia to a point which may already be characterized as a loss of government authority. The next stage is the collapse of government.

"I get the impression," Vasiliy Likhachev said, "that today certain forces in Moscow would like to take advantage of the serious political situation and play the Tatar card, the Bashkortostan card, and so on. It has occurred to a few people in Moscow that economic sanctions might, perhaps, be used against Tatarstan. Judging by pieces in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, Finance Minister Boris Fedorov is hatching such plans when he put forward harsh measures such as ending financing of enterprises in the military-industrial complex, higher educational establishments, and the law enforcement agencies.

Touching on the role of the regions in the reform of the Russian Federation, Vasiliy Likhachev expressed the idea—which does not seem to have appeared in the Tatarstan leader's speeches before—of the possibility of a union of the Volga regions:

"As early as last year I told our President Shaymiyev that Tatarstan should have been playing a more active role in the Volga region long ago. The way events are developing is forcing me to return to the necessity of thinking through the idea of a union of Volga regions."

It is Vasiliy Likhachev's opinion that this union should not just be an economic one.

"Today I am coming to the conclusion," he said, "that the Volga regions also need to conduct mutual consultations when discussing political questions. However efficient the Federation Council may prove, it will be difficult to get it to discuss questions in depth. It would probably be simpler if the regions came forward with a common viewpoint. We already have the foundations for a future union. Tatarstan has concluded treaties with Udmurtia, Bashkortostan, Mariy El, Chuvashia... When I was in Moscow, I held short talks with the leaders of several regions and they began to think about this.

Kemerovo Official To Propose Creating Siberian Republic

LD2709221793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1357 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The chairman of Russia's Kemerovo Regional Council, Amangeldy Tuleyev, said that, at Tuesday's [28 September] meeting of the Siberian Agreement Interregional Association in Novosibirsk, he was going to propose forming a Siberian Republic.

The Siberian Agreement comprises 19 constituent parts of the Russian Federation situated in Siberia. Less than half of them sent their representatives to a meeting of the Association's council in Novosibirsk several days ago.

Tuleyev told a news conference in Kemerovo on Monday that the Siberian Republic could consist of the Siberian Agreement members.

St. Petersburg Mayor Views Payments to Federal Budget

LD2709221293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1756 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St Petersburg September 27 TASS—"Some regions make claims to the federal government which are worth nothing if they (these regions) do not contribute fully towards the federal budget," St. Petersburg's Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak said at a meeting with the personnel of the tax service and tax police here.

Sobchak said that the city would fully pay towards the federal budget this year, just as did last year. As concerns the amount St. Petersburg pays towards the federal

budget, it ranks third in the country after the oil-rich Tyumen region and Moscow.

"We have many more representatives of various nationalities than any component republic of the Russian Federation," Sobchak said.

"But there is no talk at all about sovereignty of nationalities. The integrity and might of a state depends on its territories which honestly fulfill their obligations before the state," said the mayor of the city with a population of five million.

Sobchak said he had addressed a proposal to President Boris Yeltsin and the Government not to deregulate the prices of energy resources at least in the next few months. "Our economy with its outdated equipment and technology is unable to cut the consumption of heat, water, coal, oil, petrol and electricity as western economies do", he said.

Leningrad Oblast Farmers Postpone Blockade

LD2809033793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0050 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent John Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 28 Sep—The strike committee of agricultural commodity producers has called off a mass protest action of Leningrad Oblast peasants scheduled for today.

Nikolay Sizykh, chairman of the union of rural commodity producers, which unites the oblast's farms, stated to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the suspension of all food supplies to St. Petersburg has been postponed until 15 October after the city authorities requested to call off the action, pledging in writing at the same time that at least a part of the debt to farms would be repaid during this week.

Prospecting of New Goldfields Begins in Maritime Kray

LD2809041593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0026 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By Itar-Tass correspondent Igor Palatov]

[Text] Vladivostok, 28 Sep—Ten new alluvial gold-bearing deposits have been recently discovered by geologists in different parts of Maritime Kray: The biggest one has been found on the territory of Shtokovskiy forestry station. The kray administration has decided to transfer about one hundred hectares of the station's land to "Rossiya," Far East's major prospectors' work association. The prospectors are already involved in commercial gold extraction - this will be the fifth goldfield in the Maritime Kray where "Rossiya" mines gold.

The Kray geological committee stated to the ITAR-TASS correspondent that licenses to prospect the new goldfields have also been issued to "Apeks" prospecting association, "Alchan" joint-stock society, small enterprise "Poisk," and "Primorskiy" mining enterprise—all formerly of Maritime Gold Association "Primorzoloto." They were granted independence this year and now they are supplying gold directly to specialized enterprises of Ryazan and Novosibirsk oblast and Moscow region, filling up the country's coffers.

International Affairs

President Kravchuk Comments on CIS Summit

LD2709180093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Sep 93

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by Semenov on 24 September; place not given; from the "Mir TV and Radio Company" program—recorded]

[Text] [Kravchuk] Ukraine joined the economic union as an integral member. We put forward a number of proposals on the text, and we hope, as envisaged by the articles of the economic treaty, that this agreement will be further improved, the domestic legislation of each state will be further improve, as Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] said, and, as the right conditions emerge, Ukraine will join this economic union. Ukraine signed all the other documents, in the main.

[Semenov] Leonid Makarovich, we know that Ukraine was involved from the very start in drawing up the draft economic treaty for an economic union. We also know that first thing this morning, even at the concluding stage of work on the document, amendments were introduced to take account of Ukraine's complaints. Nevertheless, the Ukrainian delegation issued a statement expressing its position, which differs somewhat from other positions, on this treaty. Can you give us some explanation here?

[Kravchuk] The fact is that this document, or draft, rather, was the subject of long discussion in Ukraine. It was submitted for parliamentary consideration. Parliament divided into sections to discuss the draft document, but in the final analysis the expressed desire was for Ukraine to join as an associate member at this stage, all the more so in that this is provided for in the draft agreement, the draft treaty.

[Semenov] Did your colleagues try to get you to opt for more?

[Kravchuk] Well, in recent years we have already developed gentler principles for conducting our relations. Whereas in the initial stages I was aware of the presence of the republics of the former union, at the present stage, and at each new stage and at each new meeting, we are increasingly feeling ourselves to be an individual state; this is not on a personal level, the principle is already becoming established that in our formal, organizational and political problems we are becoming states, using our interaction to enhance the well-being of the people. And then it would possible to say that a huge step has been made towards a new commonwealth of states being built upon the principles of good-neighborly relations, friendship, cooperation, but without senior and junior members, without dictate. This is also manifested in our meetings.

[Semenov] But will Ukraine take part in the specific projects and programs which were considered today by the heads of state?

[Kravchuk] Without doubt.

[Semenov] There is a plan for setting up combined organizations in Yelabuga for metal and coal, and for agriculture and technology...

[Kravchuk] We signed all that, we have already signed the agreements on coal and metal. We shall take part in drawing up all documents which are envisaged in the agreement. We shall take the most active part in projects following from those documents which aim at developing economic cooperation, economic interaction, joint utilization of our resources, and our scientific and technical potential on the principles of economic interest and market relations.

[Semenov] What is your assessment of the documents on human rights which were adopted today?

[Kravchuk] We all signed them, they are in compliance with the international documents on this level, which Ukraine signed previously as a member of the United Nations. So there is no problem there for us. They duplicate these others, but take account of our specific features, given that we have multi-ethnic states: Many more than 100 nationalities live in Ukraine. As for the rest, I thought it important that while having the general international document, we should nevertheless register all our principles and our understandings within the context of the CIS.

Foreign Minister Zlenko Discusses Course of Policy

WS2809080093 Kiev KIEVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 17 Sep 93 p 4

[Interview with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko by Gennadiy Zarechanskiy; place and date not given: "Foreign Ministry Is Independent, So Is Ukraine"]

[Text] [Zarechanskiy] There used to be a catch phrase "Ukraine and the world" designed to create an illusion of Ukraine's active participation in solving international problems. What does this phrase mean today?

[Zlenko] An independent Ukraine is making its first steps in foreign politics, which can in no way can be called timid. Perhaps the fact of our participation in international affairs, though limited, has played a positive role.

Of course, some people are skeptical about the suggestion that Ukraine makes any impact on the resolution of international problems, but you cannot argue the facts. Take for example the "surge of recognition" of Ukraine as an independent state. Without the international authority earned by our country worldwide, this would have been impossible.

At the same time, we realize the magnitude of the problems we are facing. Ukrainian independence needs further consolidation which, among other things, can be achieved through foreign policy.

Our foreign initiatives are directed first of all at an atmosphere of stability and security in Central and East Europe. The "security vacuum" in this region, coupled with the reluctance of the West to expand its sphere of influence, forces East European countries to seek their own resolution to this problem. We do not limit our proposals to the idea of non-violability of the present borders. We attach great importance to a number of other issues, including respect for the rights of national minorities.

Another concern of Ukraine is the position of an individual in the modern world. To bring this problem to the attention of the international community, we pressed for the holding a special international conference.

In other words, the phrase "Ukraine and the world" is gaining more profound meanings every day. Not only has the world recognized Ukraine, it counts on it and sees it as a stabilizing force in Europe.

[Zarechanskiy] During the days of Ukraine's presence in the United Nations, the former Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had always done Moscow's bidding. The newest session of the UN General Assembly will begin its work in several days. Will representatives of a sovereign Ukraine coordinate their votes with Russian diplomats?

[Zlenko] The point is that the teamwork of many delegations from various regions of the world, including Russia and other CIS countries, is of great importance at the UN sessions. One should remember that the United Nations was meant as an international organization established to facilitate international communication among different states. This applies equally to both Ukrainian- Russian and Ukrainian-CIS cooperation in the United Nations.

At the upcoming General Assembly session, we are going to come up with joint proposals on a variety of problems (environmental protection, the fight against international terrorism and drug trafficking). Ukraine has its own perception of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which was reflected in the documents recently adopted at the meeting of CIS foreign ministers in Moscow.

[Zarechanskiy] From my experience gained in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, I know that a hefty package of various Soviet peace initiatives was crafted as a counterbalance to the imperialist ones. Still, I think that Ukraine will play an active role in the United Nations. What problems does it see as a priority?

[Zlenko] The participation of Ukraine, recognized as a full- right member of the international community, in the General Assembly has changed qualitatively. From now on, we will proceed from the interests of our states only, coming up mainly with the initiatives reflecting those interests and abandoning global ones, typical for the USSR. Nevertheless, based on its capabilities, Ukraine is ready to promote the development of all-around cooperation to enhance security and the resolution of global problems.

Our political goal at the upcoming UN session is to ensure the territorial integrity and national security of Ukraine. We consider it a particular goal to engage the UN in the solution of specific problems facing countries undergoing a transitional period.

The most important proposals at this session will be initiatives on developing mechanisms to overcome economic problems and compensate for losses incurred by Ukraine and other Danube countries as a result of the sanctions against Yugoslavia; a draft convention on the protection of UN peace-keeping forces; the organization of an international peace conference in 1995 as part of the celebration of the UN's 50th anniversary; and the request to cut Ukraine's membership payment to the UN budget.

[Zarechanskiy] It is no secret that the so-called "secret diplomacy" has persisted to this day. What is your opinion about it? Do you think that Ukrainian diplomats use this tool in their relations with foreign colleagues?

[Zlenko] With the rapid development of communication means and the emergence of different forms of a grass-roots diplomacy, the issue of secret diplomacy is practically out of the question. In its traditional meaning, this form of foreign relations can hardly be viable or at least popular. History is full of examples when secret diplomacy had grave and unrepairable consequences for nations and states, including Ukraine.

This form of diplomacy was more characteristic of the turn of 19th and 20th centuries, even though no one can completely rule it out under modern conditions. This issue has assumed a somewhat different form. There are issues that require delicate and sometimes confidential approaches and decisions. Publicity can complicate them in such cases. On the other hand, the public cannot be held unaware even if a decision is expected to be unpopular.

Ukrainian diplomacy does not rule out negotiations held outside conference rooms and official meetings. However this form of work cannot be confused with secret diplomacy. We do not accept such a form of diplomacy. All we can say is that any country would take an opportunity of some kind of secrecy, if it was necessary to accomplish some important goals.

After all, the word "secret" applied to diplomacy is symbolic. Only a small part of our work can be known publicly, such as official visits, negotiations, agreements. The official documents on the Massandra meeting,

which were published in KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, would be an example of such secrecy.

More often, one of the sides does not want to make some details of an issue known publicly. This is why some people call it "secret diplomacy."

[Zarechanskiy] Ukrainian embassies are opening abroad. What kind of difficulties are Ukrainian diplomats experiencing?

[Zlenko] Our embassies and representations to international organizations are fulfilling a number of missions connected with Ukraine's diplomatic presence in different regions of the world. Ukraine's strong image as a stable political and economical partner can help us to carry out economic reform. We cannot count on international help without such an image.

Taking into account Ukraine's economy, our foreign offices are concentrating primarily on economic activities—preparing the grounds for cooperation, looking for business partners, and overseeing already concluded agreements.

Of course, the Foreign Ministry is experiencing the same problems as our country. The shortage of hard currency hampers the establishment of new offices and even the maintenance of already existing ones.

The problem could be partially resolved if Russia assumed a more constructive position on dividing property of the former USSR. Today, Ukraine is opening new offices at its own expense. For example, many Ukrainian embassies abroad and foreign ones in Kiev are operating on the basis of mutual agreements. Some of the embassies have been rented and some of them have been bought.

Though many problems are connected with the opening of new embassies, there are also many problems with their maintenance.

Nevertheless, we understand that our foreign policy will yield long-term dividends and is setting the ground for future development. This is why the ministry is paying so much attention to the opening and maintenance of embassies.

[Zarechanskiy] The former Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee's [CK KPU] Foreign Relations Department had complete control over the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all the way from the recruitment of personnel. Today, there is a Supreme Council's Committee for Foreign Affairs, headed by Dmytro Pavlychko. Has it assumed the methods of the former CK KPU department?

[Zlenko] The recruitment issue, including engaging our foreign offices' staff, remains one of the most important for us. In foreign affairs, success depends on the skill and experience of diplomats.

I want to say that the ministry is completely independent in the recruitment of personnel. As is known, ambassadors are appointed by the Ukrainian president. The remaining appointments are made by the Foreign Ministry.

Speaking about recruitment, it should be pointed out that each candidacy is approved by the ministry's Collegium. Besides, we cooperate with other ministries, for example with the Ministry of External Economic Relations, regarding appointments of economic advisers and opening of our commercial offices abroad.

Speaking about relations with the Supreme Council's committee, I can say that we have established creative coexistence.

Nobody is going to deny that discrepancies between the ministry and the committee could occur. We do not see anything unusual about that. Any issue can generate different opinions that can be used in finding the most optimal solution.

Cooperation of the two structures is inevitable, and the ministry is always ready to hear and discuss any proposals from the legislative committee. Each side is acting in the sphere of its competence, but we decisively withstand any pressure.

[Zarechanskiy] You often come forward with statements in defense of an independent Ukraine. With whom do you coordinate such statements?

[Zlenko] One should take into account the difference between statements by the government, the Foreign Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry Press Center.

As has been said before, the Foreign Ministry acts within the framework of its own competence. We are responsible for our state's foreign policy. We have all the required powers to do so. So we do not need any special procedures to explain Ukraine's foreign policy. There is also no need for any preliminary agreements concerning statements by the ministry or its press center.

Nevertheless, we coordinate the most important issues with the president, who, according to the Constitution, is responsible for our country's foreign policy.

[Zarechanskiy] Mister Zlenko, my last question is of a different nature, however, it touches upon foreign affairs. It is about Bosnia, where our military contingent has been deployed. There have been victims. Can you tell me, who sends our troops into such troubled spots?

[Zlenko] Speaking about our troops, I must admit that they are performing a very important mission that is connected with humanitarian aid convoys. By doing so, they are contributing to the search for peace in the world. The job they are performing is welcomed, which is testified to by the very high appraisals of their actions.

Speaking about who sends Ukrainian soldiers to troubled spots, it should be mentioned that, according to our laws, troops can only be sent abroad upon Supreme

Council approval. The Ukrainian president summons a legislative initiative to the legislature, who examines it. Such was the case with the present contingent.

[Zarechanskiy] Are all of the troops volunteers?

[Zlenko] Of course. The entire contingent has given an agreement in writing that they will perform their mission voluntarily.

[Zarechanskiy] It is obvious that you are, primarily, interested in foreign affairs. Nevertheless, I would like to hear your opinion on the situation that has developed in Ukraine.

[Zlenko] Everything that happens in our country and its economy has direct influence on foreign policy. This is completely natural. Any event has repercussions abroad.

[Zarechanskiy] What about the latest price hikes?

[Zlenko] They have had repercussions, as well. We have established good relations with many diplomats who wish to help Ukraine. Recently one of the ambassadors I received suggested a fairly comprehensive anti-crisis program for Ukraine. We inform the president and the government about such facts. So, to activate foreign policy we need to stabilize the economy. The ministry is trying to maintain a grip on this issue. Recently, we held a meeting devoted to the issue of activating our diplomatic corps for purposes of attracting more foreign capital to our country.

[Zarechanskiy] Thank you for the conversation.

[Zlenko] I am grateful to KIEVSKIYE NOVOSTI for giving its readers an opportunity to learn about our ministry's work.

Some Leaders at Odds Over Relations With Russia

PM2709153593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Polyakov under the "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Why Did Leonid Kuchma Quit? Difference in Opinions and Positions at Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Session Getting Wider"]

[Text] Kiev—After three rounds of voting the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet succeeded on 21 September in accumulating the necessary number of votes to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. At the same time they passed a vote of no confidence in the entire Cabinet of Ministers. President Leonid Kravchuk has been tasked with forming a new government. So why did Leonid Kuchma quit?

The people's deputies have asked themselves this question on several occasions. They are puzzled: According to Leonid Kuchma, he has full mutual understanding with the president and his work colleagues. The Supreme Soviet has not raised the issue of dismissing him, but he is quitting nonetheless. The prime minister's speeches to parliament Tuesday contained no clear answer to this question.

However, as Leonid Kravchuk noted in one of his rejoinders, when politicians swear allegiance to one another, it does not mean that allegiance really exists. This rejoinder seems to shed some light on the real and principal reason for Leonid Kuchma's departure. The reason is that right up to the last moment Leonid Kravchuk has been in favor of rapprochement with Russia in word only, whereas in fact almost all economic ties with Russia have today been cut. Leonid Kuchma has frequently insisted on the restoration of these ties—something that has provoked a barrage of accusations from nationalists of every stripe that he is betraying Ukraine's independence. In these conditions Leonid Kuchma judged normal work by the Cabinet of Ministers to be impossible and insisted on resigning.

But the economic situation in Ukraine is so critical that Leonid Kravchuk is inclined to change his attitude too, it seems. In any event, regarding the results of his recent talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, he stated that agreement needs to be reached with Russia on the Black Sea Fleet, otherwise Ukraine will lose its influence over Crimea as a whole. And he added that confrontation with Russia will never be to Ukraine's advantage.

National patriotic deputies are completely opposed to any rapprochement with Russia, they deny that Ukraine has any debts, and they are demanding the sharing out of the USSR's diamond stocks and gold reserves. They are using recent events in Russia as evidence of increased instability in Russia and proof that it is impossible to form any union with it. During the morning of 22 September Vyacheslav Chornovil announced that Russia was teetering on the brink of war, and in these conditions the president should not travel to Moscow.

Nuclear Specialists Meet in Odessa, Urge Cooperation

AU2709143993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Sep 93 p 2

[Commentary by UKRINFORM correspondents Serhiy Balykov and Viktor Rossokha: "Mutually Advantageous Partnership Is Necessary"]

[Text] It is a paradox of today's life: Disputes about the fate of Ukraine's atomic engineering are becoming increasingly heated, statements by its opponents increasingly adamant, and the share of the "peaceful atom" in the country's total energy balance is steadily increasing.

There is a simple explanation for this: Practical economics objectively disproves any doctrines or aspirations if they are at variance with the true situation. Notwithstanding the ambiguity of our attitude to atomic engineering, we must admit that, given the steady decrease in the production of electric energy at thermal stations due to the shortage of gas and fuel oil, atomic

power plants have turned out to be that "workhorse" that, no matter what, continues, month after month, steadily producing billions of kilowatt-hours for Ukraine.

Whether people like it or not, the same economic need and the search for reliable partners in the conditions of the painful severance of interstate ties inexorably push Ukrainian atomic specialists toward closer cooperation with their Russian colleagues.

The meeting in Odessa between leaders of atomic power engineering and industry of the two neighboring countries is a further confirmation of this. The discussion of the wide range of the most difficult problems encountered by the branch has shown that, whereas for Ukraine joint efforts in this direction are rather a matter of survival, for Russia it is a matter of economic expediency. Here are some facts.

About 700 plants of the former union participate in the creation of a single power unit for an atomic electric power plant [AES]. Of this number, 126 plants are outside Russia, including 74 in Ukraine. Whereas for the Ukrainian side, deliveries of fresh nuclear fuel and the removal of spent fuel for processing and storage present an extremely acute problem, in Russia, on the contrary, the virtually closed nuclear cycle, including the two aforementioned most complex and most expensive links, a cycle that was obtained by Russia as a legacy, remains underloaded.

It must be added here that, following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the scientific and technological base of the atomic branch has remained in Russia. From there, up to 80 percent of equipment and spare parts are supplied to Ukraine, and the majority of atomic specialists are trained there. Lately, many specialists have been leaving Ukrainian plants for Russian ones, where they are paid much more. They include quite a number of representatives of leading professions whose training usually takes several years.

The directors of Ukrainian AES showed particular concern about the collapse of atomic machine building, the loss of sophisticated technologies that used to depend upon mutual ties between Ukraine and Russia, the impossibility of implementing measures for the improvement of the safety of atomic plants that were formerly designed within the framework of the USSR and that are common for the two countries, about the "brain drain," and about the absence of atomic legislation.

It is necessary to utilize all the best decisions that may be offered by each side and to find acceptable and mutually advantageous forms of cooperation at a sufficiently high level—this is how one can sum up the businesslike and dedicated discussion of the problems of atomic power engineering.

The recommendations by Russian specialists regarding the outdated power units that need to be removed from operation are of interest. If the equipment of the engine room is in good condition, it is recommended to replace dismantled reactors with new thermal or atomic accessories, including those working on fast neutrons with the utilization of highly enriched fuel.

It may take seven or eight years, however, to implement such a worthwhile project. That is why corresponding work must be started already today and, naturally, there must be a long-term program for power engineering.

The atomic specialists' immediate plans include the organization of joint production and financial structures and of insurance companies that would make it possible to facilitate financial settlements and create an up-to-date insurance system.

The atomic specialists exchanged opinions on questions of elaboration of nuclear legislation in both countries and also on the practice and prospects of cooperation with Western firms.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Assumes Control Over Cabinet of Ministers

WS2709154193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] As the press service of the Ukrainian president reported, Leonid Kravchuk issued a decree on managing the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, which stated: In connection with resolutions by the Ukrainian Supreme Council of 21 September 1993, on the Ukrainian Government and its responsibilities, and to enhance the leadership of all structures of the state power in the capital and the hinterland, to efficiently resolve tasks of economic reform, establish market relations, and achieve stability in all the spheres of social life, I hereby decree: In accordance to part 1 of Chapter 114.1; items 3.1 and 4 from Chapter 114.5; part 1 from Chapter 117 of the Ukrainian Constitution, the president of Ukraine executes the direct leadership of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. The decree of the Ukrainian president of 16 June, 1993, No. 215, on urgent measures directed at the stabilization of the economic and political situation in Ukraine shall be considered invalid. The present decree comes into force on the day it is signed.

Further Details

AU2709190593 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, Sept 27 (AFP)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk announced Monday he would take over as head of government following the resignation of former Premier Leonid Kuchma, officials said.

Kravchuk said he had taken the decision to strengthen "the structures of power of the executive and the state at the central and local levels" and to ensure the implementation of Ukraine's moves towards a market economy.

The former head of government stepped down last week, saying that he could not implement his policies in the face of opposition from a parliament dominated by conservatives.

First Deputy Prime Minister Efim Zviagelski was appointed interim prime minister until a new premier was named, which was not expected until after the legislative elections.

The Ukrainian Parliament Friday announced dates for early legislative and presidential elections, in a bid to calm growing social unrest sparked by economic and political turmoil.

Kravchuk approved the dates—legislative ballots on March 27, 1994, and a presidential vote for June 26, 1994—saying they were needed to stem unrest in the former Soviet state.

Elected in October 1992, Kuchma initially governed by decree for six months, but in May the parliament refused to renew his emergency powers to reform the economy.

The country's stability is also threatened by separatist elements, notably in the Crimea and eastern regions, who have called for referendums on their autonomy.

Kravchuk 'Not Prime Minister'

LD2809110193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1829 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The head of the Ukrainian president's administration legal service Ivan Timchenko said that Leonid Kravchuk had headed the republican Cabinet of Ministers for the period the candidate for the Prime-Minister chair was being chosen.

Commenting on Interfax-Ukraine request the Ukrainian's president decree of September 27 "On administering the Cabinet of Ministers" he in particular noted that according to this document the "president is not prime-minister." According to Timchenko Kravchuk just takes on the administration of the government and can simultaneously look for a candidate for the position of the Premier.

In Timchenko's view, the "possibility is not ruled out that the president fails to find the candidate until the parliamentary elections after which a new government will be formed." He reminded that the early parliamentary elections in Ukraine were called for March 27, 1994.

Ex-Prime Minister Kuchma Discusses Present Issues

AU2709143893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 24 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Serhiy Yasen: "L. Kuchma Looks Toward Centrist Forces and Wants To Find a Teacher of Ukrainian"]

[Text] At the request of journalists, Ukraine's ex-Prime Minister L. Kuchma held a news conference at the "Ukrainian House." The very fact that the meeting did not take place within the Cabinet of Ministers building and was, therefore, semi-official in character, led the journalists to ask him most diverse questions.

L. Kuchma said, in particular, that, today, judging by newspaper articles, he does not know a more talented Ukrainian economist than V. Pynzenyk, and, concerning the members of the Cabinet of Ministers with whom he happened to work, he wouldn't take many of the old cadres into his own assault team. The ex-premier refused to name these few, "lest the Supreme Council should do on the contrary."

Regarding the ways of economic development, L. Kuchma has remained a supporter of a gradual transition to the market. He is also in favor of transferring some power to regions. Perhaps, as a result, the regions will be more interested in production.

Declaring the need to maintain economic ties with Russia, L. Kuchma remains a categorical opponent of Ukraine's joining the ruble zone, "because if a state has no national currency of its own, it is not a state."

Touching upon the Massandra [in the Crimea] agreements and also the fact that Russia has canceled its signature under the protocol on nuclear weapons, L. Kuchma stated that, even today, he considers the signing of that protocol to be Ukraine's success. Because, first, in his opinion, those warheads that are presently stockpiled in Ukraine present a danger, because, to this day, no agreement has been signed with Russia on their warranted maintenance by their developers.

Second, by that protocol, Russia recognized Ukraine's right to own the nuclear charges. This will guarantee fuel for Ukrainian atomic power plants for at least three years. As for the cancellation of the protocol by the Russian side, the latter does not take into account the real possibilities—it is technically impossible to remove nuclear weapons from Ukraine within the period of time proposed by Russia.

The ex-prime minister also shared his plans for the future with the journalists. As Ukraine's Supreme Council deputy, he will rather look toward centrist forces and, if he returns to "New Ukraine," he will not side with the wing headed by O. Yemets. Yes, said L. Kuchma, it is a great pity that Rukh (Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka] has ceased to be a consolidated force and has split into a multitude of parties. Also, L. Kuchma is looking for a Ukrainian teacher. It appears that, at last, there is some time for studies.

Dnepropetrovsk Citizens Polled on Support for Kravchuk

LD2709201093 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk, 27 Sep—The Dnepropetrovsk Social Monitoring Foundation has informed city council deputies on the general political mood of their electors. As it is, 74 percent of Dnepropetrovsk residents have no confidence in the president of Ukraine. Half of those are prepared to fall in love with Kravchuk again if he gets to grips without delay with the criminal underworld, including corrupt sections in the higher corridors of power. Left-wing and right-wing radicals make up approximately 19 percent each. Some believe the president's last chance is a return to a centrally planned system of distribution, others—total privatization. Ten percent of those polled place no more hopes with Leonid Makarovich.

Nationalist Organization Outlines Policies

States Goals

AU2709175293 Kiev NESKORENA NATSIYA in Ukrainian No. 14 (37), Sep 93

[Statement by the Ukrainian State Independence organization: "DSU Is an Organization of Ukrainians"—first sentence published on the right-hand side of the text]

[Text] The Ukrainian State Independence [DSU] organization was created in April 1990. NESKORENA NATSIYA is its central publication.

Ukrainians alone may become members of the national organization "Ukrainian State Independence," which was created for the defense of the interests of the Ukrainian people.

The self-organization of Ukrainians within the national DSU and its Guard is the only chance for us not just to achieve salvation, but also victory.

WE WANT UKRAINIANS TO BE IN POWER IN THE UKRAINIAN STATE!

We are in favor of establishing Ukrainian order and in favor of strict production and social discipline! We are in favor of state assistance to Ukrainian peasants and national entrepreneurs. We want to achieve a high standard of living for Ukrainian working people. We want Ukrainian servicemen and militiamen to be held in esteem and be provided with housing on a priority basis.

We are against profiteering politicians who have made up dozens of parties.

We are against democracy American style!

We are against liberalism, socialism, and communism!

We are in favor of a new demographic policy: against mixed marriages, for maximum benefits to Ukrainian families, and for stopping uncontrolled migration to Ukraine of Russians and representatives of other countries.

We are against Ukraine's disarmament! Against conversion of the military-industrial complex, and against turning Ukrainian tanks and machineguns into scrap metal!

We are for a powerful state. For nuclear Ukraine!

We are in favor of the return of Russians and Jews to their historical homelands.

UKRAINE MUST BE FOR UKRAINIANS!

If you share our views and if you want the same things as we do, call us:

Kiev—242-47-38, Ivano-Frankivsk—37-6-30, Lvov—35-83-25, Rivne—6-11-44, Oleksandria in Kirovohrad Oblast—2-69-96 or 52- 2-66, Kryvyy Rih—71-48-28, Chernivtsi—7-32-74, Zaporizhzhya—52-41-43, Vynnytsya—3-36-87, Shostka in Sumy Oblast—9-92-23- 35, Luhansk—54-67-79, and Kramatorsk—in Donetsk Oblast 6-66- 23.

Statement Condemning Kravchuk

AU2709175393 Kiev NESKORENA NATSIYA in Ukrainian No. 14 (37), Sep 93

["Statement by the All-Ukrainian Political Association 'Ukrainian State Independence': Down With the Traitor President!"; issued on 6 September]

[Text] The notorious Crimean agreement was a graphic confirmation of L. Kravchuk's cowardice and of his collaboration with Russian invaders. Kravchuk shows decisiveness only in those cases when it is a matter of signing yet another agreement which is humiliating for Ukraine, or of destroying the Ukrainian Army.

The withdrawal of the tactical nuclear weapons to Russia, the dissolution of the Kiev Military District, the disbandment of combat-ready units and formations, the destruction of tanks, aircraft, and means of air defense, the closing down of military educational institutions, the signing of the treaty on removing strategic nuclear weapons to Russia, the surrender of the Black Sea Fleet, and the selling off of the national territory—these are the stages in the activity of the former Ukrainian Communist Party ideologist and Moscow's loyal lickspittle.

Today, the president of Ukraine has become the main threat to Ukrainian sovereignty.

Leonid Kravchuk is the president of the national betrayal party.

The national association "Ukrainian State Independence" [DSU] comes out in favor of immediately relieving L.M. Kravchuk of the post of commander of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, proclaiming a moratorium

on disarmament, and investigating the activity of L.M. Kravchuk regarding the fulfillment by him of the oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

The infamous Crimean agreement must boost the Ukrainian national liberation movement.

Leadership of DSU

6 September 1993

Antiminorities Resolution

AU2709195893 Kiev NESKORENA NATSIYA in Ukrainian No. 14 (37), Sep 93 p 3

[Resolution adopted by meeting of the Ukrainian State Independence organization in Vynnytsya on 20 August]

[Text] In recent years, Vynnytsya has become a site for the cooperation between two anti-Ukrainian forces: the Russian and the Jewish minorities. These nations were always enemies, but, today, they have found it possible to cooperate on the basis of pillaging Ukraine and removing its wealth to their own states.

These minorities, which are, in fact, anti-Ukrainian fifth columns, are backed by influential states with strong expansionist traditions, states that strive for world domination. Failure to realize this or deliberate attempts to cover up this truth, as well as attempts on the part of Democrats to present these forces as allies in the struggle for building the Ukrainian Sovereign and Independent State [USSD] may lead to tragic consequences.

A correct answer to the question "On whose side and against whom?"—the realization of the inevitability of interethnic struggle and readiness for it, and the uncompromising attitude toward the enemies and traitors of the nation—will bring us closer to victory and will increase the ranks of fighters for the national liberation of the Ukrainian people.

Proceeding from an understanding of the fact that Ukrainians may only build their own national state on the land of our forefathers, we advance the following slogans:

"Ukraine for Ukrainians!"

"The Ukrainian State Is Above All!"

"Death to Enemies!"

"We Are on Our Own Land!"

We Will Win!

Vynnytsya, 20 August 1993

Belarus

Kebich on Significance of CIS Economic Agreement

LD2609164993

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1313 GMT on 26 September, in its "Panorama" program, broadcasts a report by Minsk correspondent Petr Makritskiy on a news conference today by Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich in Minsk.

Makritskiy says: "The documents signed at the Moscow summit do not, by any means, mean that an economic union is already in existence. Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich stated this at a meeting with journalists. He stressed that much work still needs to be done for the agreement to become reality and for the economic union to function properly."

Kebich says: "Now it is necessary to work out about 35 individual agreements so that this union works. I am more than convinced that it will be very difficult to work them out, because during work on these issues, every state will seek economic advantages for itself, whereas a union where no one will lose anything but where everyone is only in a single advantageous position is not possible. In order to win in one area, it is necessary to compromise in another. But we will do everything so that these agreements are signed and will begin working by the start of 1994. The entrance into an economic union in no way means that we will lock ourselves into our own circle and not seek business partners in other countries. The union does not stop us from doing this at all, on the contrary it encourages us toward new links."

Kebich on Energy Problem, Joining Ruble Zone

WS2709130293 Minsk RID in Russian 1421 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] "There will be no mean squabble with S. Shushkevich, Supreme Soviet chairman and people's deputy," stated Council of Ministers Chairman Vyacheslav Kebich at a meeting with the Belarusian Scientific and Industrial Association Council. The prime minister touched upon two issues—the energy problem and the joining of the ruble zone. He reported to industrialists that the country's oil debt to Russia has dropped from $350 to $70 million. The debt for gas was paid by allotting $40 million from the hard currency fund.

Speaking of the bilateral agreement with Russia under preparation, V. Kebich explained that it provides for an integral currency circulation, a coordination of the partners' budgets, common systems of price formation and taxation, and other conditions. A meeting of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers made the first step toward economic union—it unilaterally removed customs checkpoints on the borders.

Supreme Soviet Chairman, Turkish Counterpart Meet

WS2809103893 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich has received the general secretary of the Grand National Assembly in Turkey, [name indistinct]. During the talks, Stanislav Shushkevich stressed the fact that both Belarus and Turkey desire mutually beneficial cooperation. We can learn a lot from the Turkish people, especially in terms of promoting conditions for the development of a market economy, Stanislav Shushkevich said. The Turkish guest has also visited the Supreme Soviet commissions dealing with CIS affairs, national policy, international affairs, and foreign economic relations.

Moldova

Government Holds News Conference on CIS Agreements

AU2509195593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Nicolae Mircea Nastase report from Chisinau]

[Text] Today at the news conference organized to brief the press on the results obtained by the delegation of the Republic of Moldova at the Moscow summit meeting of the CIS heads of state, the journalists were surprised to see that neither of the two top officials which had headed Moldova's delegation to the Moscow meeting [President Mircea Snegur and Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli] were personally present. The dialogue with the press was thus left for Ceslav Ciobanu, presidential counselor for economic issues; Andrei Cheptine, minister of foreign economic relations; Andrei Diaconu, first deputy minister of economy; and Ludmila Gubenko, deputy governor of Moldova's National Bank. As presidential counselor Ciobanu himself later admitted, the way this governmental group was selected was interpreted by the representatives of the mass media as proof of the fact that today's press conference was limited exclusively to discussing the economic aspects of the Moscow meeting, more precisely those of the stipulations of the accord on the establishment of the CIS economic union. As the officials said, that accord was merely one of the total number of 18 documents signed in Moscow, of which the Republic of Moldova merely signed 14, by excluding the documents referring to military issues, such as the setting up of the defense forces, the reorganization of the supreme command of the CIS armed forces, and so on.

Besides the aforementioned accord on the establishment of the CIS economic union, the officials attending the news conference also mentioned the agreements referring to the responsibility of the CIS states in the observance of human rights and basic liberties, the setting up of the CIS foreign ministers' council, the setting up of the

Euro-Asian community of coal and metal, the cooperation in the observance of copyright, the protection of the victims of military conflicts, measures to prevent blockades, and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

As anyone can see from this incomplete enumeration, besides the accord on the establishment of the CIS economic union, which was free to be signed by any state, almost all the other documents also signed by the Republic of Moldova refer to specific issues regarding CIS countries. If that is the case, why did Moldova, which is not a CIS member, sign them?—that was one of the recurrent questions asked by the journalists and left unanswered during today's news conference.

After detailing the course of events during the Moscow meeting to the representatives of press, presidential counselor Ciobanu emphasized the fact that all attendants at the meeting supported the reform course initiated by President Boris Yeltsin. Ciobanu then highlighted the exceptional character of the meeting which he termed the first concrete step made to render cooperation more efficient among the countries formerly belonging to the Soviet Union. Assessing that the accord on the establishment of the CIS economic union is a well balanced agreement, elaborated after the various parties had made a number of concessions, and therefore not violating the interests of any of the signatory states, Ciobanu pointed out that it is intended to solve the problems which have emerged among the signatory states during the current transition period. It is a principle accord, Ciobanu stressed, which is to be detailed later, after negotiations, by the signing of 35 concrete accords.

The representatives of the Republic of Moldova signed that accord on the basis of the idea that the integration process going on in the economy cannot be conceived without the continuous strengthening of the sovereignty of the republic and with the intent to continue the reform program which is already in progress, without harming the interests of third parties. The signing of the documents was necessary because of the need for the Republic of Moldova to regain its former position on the markets of CIS states, especially in the Russian Federation, and to re-establish traditional ties with all those countries, without endangering the reform convened and supported by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Ciobanu said.

The journalists' questions referred especially to the political consequences of the accord, as most of them consider it as Moldova's de facto adherence to the CIS. Despite the fact that such questions, generally, have been left without answers, at a certain moment Ciobanu asserted that Moldova's adherence to the CIS economic union will result in a kind of mutual dependence with the Russian Federation, which may either lead to success, in case Moscow succeeds in implementing reform, or to failure, if not. Should civil war break out in the Russian Federation, Ciobanu added, the Republic of Moldova will also be affected.

Another interesting assertion made during today's news conference came from Andrei Diaconu, who—wishing to put an end to the flow of embarrassing questions—said that the accord signed in Moscow will be submitted to Parliament for ratification. However, he expressed his doubts about the current law-making body's ability to continue its activity, assessing that it will probably be dissolved on Tuesday [28 September], when Parliament is to resume its session. Should that happen, Diaconu said, the accord on the CIS economic union will be submitted directly for the people's decision by means of a referendum.

Further on News Conference

AU2609211093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1900 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 25/9/1993—Moldova signed 14 of the 18 documents discussed at the Moscow summit, stated Ceslav Ciobanu, President Mircea Snegur's adviser, at today's press conference on the results of meeting of state heads of the CIS. In the opinion of Ciobanu, the signing of the economic agreements assumes the participation of Moldova in the solution of some political problems. The president's adviser stated that Moldova's adherence to the CIS has no alternatives since there are no investments from abroad. Andrei Cheptine, Moldovan minister of external economic ties, stated that the agreement gives Moldova economic advantages without affecting the flow of reforms. International organizations agree with Moldova's wish to sell its products on the eastern market, granting it credits, said Cheptine. Andrei Diaconu, deputy minister of economy, stated that the signing of the agreement would mean the "annulling of the embargo imposed by Russia on Moldova and Azerbaijan." "If Moldova's Parliament does not ratify the agreement signed in Moscow, Moldovan people will pronounce on this agreement in a referendum," stated Diaconu. President Snegur and Premier Sangheli did not take part in the press conference to pronounce on the consequences of Moldova's adherence to the economic union of CIS states. This fact dissatisfied the reporters present at the press conference.

Economic Minister Lauds Treaty

LD2609034393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Excerpt] Kishinev, 25 Sep—The treaty on setting up an economic union, signed in Moscow by the heads of the independent states, meets their fundamental interests, proceeds from the realities that have emerged after the breakdown of the Union, and does not encroach upon their sovereignty, Andrey Cheptine, the minister of foreign economic relations, stated at a news conference

today. [passage omitted; the signing of the treaty was prompted by the entire course of events and by the need to cooperate with each other; none of the signatories can find the way out of crisis alone]

Opposition Protests Accord

AU2509202193 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Report by Nicolae Mircea Nastase from Chisinau]

[Text] Until now merely one reaction was signaled with respect to the signing, by President Mircea Snegur, of the Moscow documents establishing the CIS economic union. During a news conference held in Balti, local representatives of four political and social groupings, namely those of the Democratic Party, Social-Democratic Party, the Congress of Intellectuals, and the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova, voiced their protest regarding the signing by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova of the Moscow accord on Moldova's adherence to the CIS economic union, despite the fact that Parliament had rejected it.

The leaders of the Balti local organizations of the aforementioned organizations emphasized the fact that the current leadership of the republic seems to be unable to lead the country out of the current crisis by merely resorting to their own forces.

Official: CIS Accord 'Strictly Economic'

AU2709200093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1741 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 27/9/1993—The authorities in Chisinau maintain that the charter on the creation of the CIS economic union is exclusively economic in character and it aims to facilitate reform in the Republic of Moldova.

Ceslav Ciobanu, economic adviser of the presidency, who held a press conference Monday, September 27, said that the document signed by President Snegur is strictly economic and it solely refers to the economic issues confronting the CIS countries. The act will be of help in the reform, added Ciobanu.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Reportedly Dismissed

LD2709220493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1357 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] President Mircea Snegur signed a decree to dismiss the chief of staff of Moldova's Armed Forces, Brigadier-General Nicolae Petrike.

The official reason for this was a request for resignation filed by the general himself. However, as Interfax learned from reliable sources, his dismissal was caused by "disagreements among the Armed Forces' leadership as to the principles of building a national army, assessment of the potential enemy, and the feasibility of Moldova facing a military threat."

Political Leaders Assess Outcome of Next Elections

AU2609211793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1920 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 24/9/1993—The newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA (INDEPENDENT MOLDOVA) asked leaders of main Moldovan parties about their opinions on the future elections. Alexandru Mosanu, chairman of the Congress of Intelligentsia, states that the Congress will have the same or even a more important position in Parliament. According to Mosanu, an electoral coalition with democratic organizations is quite possible. Valeriu Senic, a member of the coordinating group of the Moldovan Socialist Party, states that the party is popular among a large part of the population because it promotes the general human values and strives for protection of poor sections of the society. "The 'conquests' during the Soviet period should be developed, and let us not reject the positive sides of these 'conquests'," states Senic. Oazu Nantoi, chairman of the Social-Democratic Party, states that the first many-party elections will be a kind of lottery, but nowadays there is no other way. Nantoi says that he cannot pronounce on the future elections, because the current Parliament makes everything possible to survive, ruining the hopes of society.

Dniester Leader Smirnov To Pay Unofficial Visit to U.S.

AU2609211293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1920 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 24/9/1993—Igor Smirnov, president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, will pay an unofficial visit to the United States in October. BASAPRESS learned from reliable sources that Smirnov will accompany the Tiraspol baseball team.

Communist Parties Warn of 'Restoration of Capitalism'

AU2609210893 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1920 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 24/9/1993—The conference of the representatives of the communist parties from the Dniester region, Moldova, and Romania took place in Tiraspol, states today's issue of the newspaper DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA (DNIESTER TRUTH.) The communists consider that it is necessary the former USSR be reborn to become an opposition for the U.S.A. and other Western countries. "The main danger is the restoration of capitalism in the former USSR and other former socialist countries," states the communique of the conference.

Inflation in 1992 'More Than 1,500 Percent'

LD2609102493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2306 GMT 25 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 26 Sep—In 1992, inflation in Moldova was more than 1,500 percent. It is a similiar rate this year when the national bank's rate for discounting bills has been between 20 to 80 percent. Journalists were told this by Konstantin Bulgak, the chairman of the board of Moldova's savings bank.

First Independent Radio Begins Broadcasting in Chisinau

AU2509200793 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Nicolae Mircea Nastase report from Chisinau]

[Text] Today the first independent radio station in the Republic of Moldova, "Unda Libera" [Free Wave], began broadcasting. "Unda Libera" was founded within the Journalism Department of Moldova's State University, and its programs are being elaborated by the professors and students of the aforementioned department, in cooperation with "Radio Uniplus" of Bucharest, which has donated parts of their equipment.

The programs of the new radio can be received in Chisinau and in its suburbs. The intention of its founders was to allow future Moldovan journalists to practice radio broadcasting and to supplement the spectrum of information available in the Republic of Moldova. "Unda Libera" intends to address to the most varied classes of listeners to whom it wants to offer non-ideological information.

The director of the national radio network of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Alexandru (?Dorovac) saluted the founding of the new radio station which he considered proof of the democratization of broadcasting in the Republic of Moldova.

Tajikistan

Two Attempts To Cross Border From Afghanistan Fail

PM2409122193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[INTERFAX report: "New Attempts To Penetrate Tajik-Afghan Border"]

[Text] During the night of 23 September two groups of armed thugs numbering around 30 men on Afghan territory tried to break through the Tajik-Afghan border in the area of the Pyandzh border post.

According to information from the Russian border troops press center, the first group entered a mined area where they lost two men before returning to the adjoining territory.

The second group joined battle with the border detail and later retreated to Afghanistan. There were no casualties among the Russian servicemen.

Government Willing To Meet Opposition, Not 'Criminals'

LD2709213193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents, Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and "others"; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The chief of the Information Department of Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry, Zafar Saidov, told Interfax that the Tajik leadership is willing to hold negotiations "with the opposition, but not with criminals." According to him, "the hands of people who unleashed the civil war are steeped in blood, and it would be immoral to conduct negotiations with them."

The Tajik Foreign Ministry, Saidov stressed, is concerned about the problem of refugees, many of whom do not feel safe upon their return home.

When all the refugees are repatriated, the Tajik opposition will lose its social support entirely, and will represent no one, Saidov said.

Over 15,000 Rebels Reportedly Trained in Afghanistan

LD2709205393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] At least 15,000 Tajik Mojahedin who were trained in Afghanistan had infiltrated Tajikistan, an Islamic field commander in Gornny Badakhshan who said his name was Hakim told Interfax in an exclusive interview. He and about 10 other field commanders of 70 to 300 men each in the Pamirs Mountains had undergone a three-month intensve training course in Afghanistan.

Hakim said that citizens of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries who want to support their Tajik brothers were fighting in opposition units.

According to Hakim, Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar had given unofficial orders to transfer a few U.S.-made anti-aircraft Stinger missiles to the Islamic opposition fighters. In Hakim's words, the need for this weapon became obvious in the Taildar fighting last August when the air force was used against the Kalaykhom opposition unit.

Hakim also said that Tajik opposition fighters had until two weeks ago been storing munition for the event of fighting.

Today, he said, Tajik opposition fighters both in Gornny Badakhshan and in other parts of Tajikistan were awaiting fighting orders. He thinks that "fighting with government forces is inevitable."

Opposition Member: Moscow, Tashkent Obstruct Peace

LD2709230593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] UZBEKISTAN HOLDS THE KEY TO SETTLING CONFLICT IN TAJIKISTAN

Moscow and Tashkent hold the key to national reconciliation in Tajikistan, and they "order the music" accordingly. There is a need for negotiations between the opposition, on the one hand, and the leaders of Russia and Uzbekistan, on the other. This statement was made in an interview with Interfax by a leading member of the Tajik opposition, Davlat Usmon, who in 1992 was included in the so-called government of national reconciliation as deputy prime minister.

According to him, the main obstacle to national reconciliation in Tajikistan is "interference by the outside forces which support the Dushanbe authorities."

According to Usmon, "a struggle for influence is going on in the highest echelons of power in Dushanbe." "There is no accord within the government. Therefore, if Russia ceases to support these circles, it will force them to come to national reconciliation," he said.

Usmon conceded that armed resistance in Tajikistan is carried out by "forces of Islamic orientation." Nevertheless he dismissed the allegations that Islamic states give them protection "on government level." "Islamabad and Riyadh do not help us partly because of Washington's pressure. Even Afghanistan, where there are about one hundred thousand Tajik refugees (30 thousand refugees, according to government sources: Interfax), has not proclaimed support for our opposition forces to this day," he said.

At the same time Interfax's interviewee conceded that the Tajik opposition bought its arms partly in Afghanistan, and obtained them partly "from some Afghan field commanders."

As Usmon said, the opposition is acting not only in Gorny Badakhshan. "We have our forces in Kurgan-Tube and in Kulyab. We have them around Dushanbe and in many other localities," he declared. "Guerrilla movement is a method of our struggle."

As Usmon said, when the present government came to power, the Tajik opposition "only defended itself." "This is a war between Russia and the opposition. We hope that Russia's political course will change, and that is why we have not begun an offensive," he said.

Interfax's interviewee conceded that from time to time opposition leaders conduct "unofficial negotiations" with Russian representatives. For instance, a leading opposition member, Said Abdullo Nuri, conferred in Afghanistan with the director of Russia's Intelligence Service, Evgeniy Primakov, not long before the head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, visited Kabul. "I had no meeting on such a high level. However, I will not refuse to have it, if I receive an invitation, and if our course benefits from it," he concluded.

Uzbekistan

National Security Service Head on Mission, Goals

LD2709212393 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1229 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] On the eve of the day of the formation of the National Security Service [NSS] of Uzbekistan, which is marked on 26 September, the national news agency of the republic released an interview with the chairman of the NSS, Gulom Aliyev.

He particularly stresses that having excluded political surveillance from practice, the service today pays most of its attention to the fight against organized crime and ensuring stability in society. With this aim, the counterintelligence staff exposed and expelled from the country over 2,000 foreigners who had illegally entered the republic working for foreign subversion centers. Their aim in many cases was to attempt to transfer the Tajik tragedy to Uzbekistan. The NSS not so long ago also stopped attempts by Islamic fundamentalists to provoke interethnic conflicts between Tajiks and Uzbeks in border regions. In Fergana Valley, conspiracy centers for storing weapons and training irregulars have been eliminated. Forty-four Islamic emissaries have been expelled from the territory of the republic; they had tried to organize provocations and anti-state actions.

The head of Uzbekistan's NSS also noted successful joint actions with the special services of other commonwealth countries. Together with their Russian and Ukrainian colleagues, the republic's counterintelligence officers put a stop to the activity of a number of foreign tourist firms that were engaged in illegally transporting immigrants from countries of Asia through the CIS to Europe. Thirty-seven terrorists were handed over to the Tajik side, guilty of mass murders and pogroms. Close cooperation has been established also with the special services of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Legal Expert on Plans for New Parliament

LD2409194793 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russaian 1215 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] During press discussion of the new Uzbek Parliament, the Oliy Majlis, Akmal Saidov, well-known legal expert, rector of the Tashkent State Legal Institute, who took part in the preparation of the law, stated that his staff made use of the experience of France, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Egypt. The Oliy Majlis, which will replace the present Supreme Soviet, will comprise 150 deputies, elected for five years from geographically based one-seat constituencies on a multiparty basis. Registered political parties will be able to nominate candidates to be MPs. Work forces and public organizations will not be able to do this as they used to.

According to Akmal Saidov, the bill envisages the creation of equal conditions for all parties at the elections. At present, three parties are registered in Uzbekistan.

Karimov Increases Minimum Wage 20 Percent

PM2709124993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Report by Vladimir Berezovskiy report: "Uzbekistan: Softening the Blow"]

[Text] By edict of President Islam Karimov, the minimum wage has gone up by 20 percent. It now exceeds 13,000 rubles [R]. This is a record for the Commonwealth. However, the average wage in the republic is significantly inferior to that in Russia, and in terms of prices Tashkent has to all intents and purposes overtaken Moscow.

The news about the increase in wages, pensions, and grants was received in the republic without the old enthusiasm. The population is already accustomed to prices inevitably leaping up in hot pursuit. It is more than likely that in a few days' time the cost of public transport, gas, and light will increase, and basic food products will become more expensive.

This year Uzbekistan will spend over R800 billion in various subsidies in the interests of social protection for the population. But to all appearances this burden will be too much for the economy, which is in urgent need of investment to develop power, oil production, machine building, and other vital sectors.

By comparison with 1990 there has been a 35-percent drop in GNP. However, officially Tashkent asserts that an increase in the output of industrial products and consumer goods has been evident of late, and greater

quantities of gas and oil have started to be extracted in the republic. Uzbekistan continues to import 80 percent of its fuel from Russia and Kazakhstan, but it hopes by the end of the century to break free of the oil trap by speedily developing deposits at Kokdumalak near Vukhara, and Mingbulak in the Fergana Valley.

The most serious problem for Uzbekistan is the exchange of "Soviet" money for Russian. Parliamentarians have not yet even discussed the question of a procedure for exchanging money and operating within the ruble zone. Meanwhile the local population, particularly traders, are buying up Russian cash and slapping on up to 20 percent.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Aliyev Agree To Extend Cease-Fire

LD2709224993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Azerbaijani acting President Geydar Aliyev have agreed that direct talks between Baku and Nagorno-Karabakh should continue at all levels. This was reported by a press secretary of the Armenian president. The leaders of the two countries believe that the authorities of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh should extend the truce for another month and during this time should finalize and agree all the peace- making measures, the press secretary of the Armenian president stated.

Karabakh Says Cease-Fire Holding

NC2709123893 Yerevan SNARK in English 1113 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Stepanakert, September 27 (SNARK)—The relative quietness is kept on the line of the Karabakh-Azerbaijani confrontation. As SNARK was informed in the Karabakh Department of Information and Press, the night on the 27th September was without any incidents. The confronting sides keep generally the conditions of the temporary armistice, extended till October 5.

No Significant Incidents for 2 Days

NC2709202093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Quoting the NKR Defense Headquarters, the NKR Public Information Service has reported that a significant incident has not occurred in the NKR battlefronts during the past two days. However, Azerbaijan's military units violated the cease-fire agreement earlier. They launched attacks on the NKR defense positions in several areas. They used technical equipment, tanks, and armored vehicles in their attacks. An attack occurred on 24 September. Azerbaijan's military units attacked the defense positions around Gadrut after intense firing on them. As usual, their offensive was unsuccessful. The Armenian forces repulsed the attack and forced Azerbaijan's units to retreat after suffering casualties.

Obviously, certain forces in Azerbaijan are not interested in the effort made to stabilize the situation. On the contrary, they wish to exploit the confrontation in the NKR. The opposition forces, however, have confidence in the peace talks, which they regard as the only way to achieve peace. In fact, President Levon Ter- Petrosyan and Acting President Geydar Aliyev discussed the matter in Moscow and reaffirmed their conviction that talks should be held to resolve the problem.

The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been relatively peaceful during the past two days. However, it was disrupted as a result of provocative activities in Azerbaijan from time to time. Shots have been fired on several areas in Azerbaijan from time to time. For example, several areas in Vaykskiy Rayon in Armenia were fired on from the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic the night before last night. No one was hurt. Nevertheless, the situation on the border between the two republics has been relatively peaceful since then. The cease-fire agreement is heeded by the two sides.

The overall situation has indicated once again that a genuine opportunity exists for the removal of the tense situation.

Karabakh's Kocharyan Denies Plan To Withdraw Troops

NC2709201093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] ITAR-TASS recently reported that Robert Kocharyan, head of the Nagorno-Karabakh [NKR] Defense Committee, informed that news agency in Stepanakert that a unilateral decision has been adopted to instruct NKR's military units to withdraw from the border areas under their control. Kocharyan said on 25 September that he has not made a disclosure to that new agency on the matter.

Parliament Approves Non-Visa Movement Within CIS

NC2709171993 Yerevan SNARK in English 1236 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, September 27 (SNARK)—The Armenian parliament confirmed today the agreement on the non-visa movement on the CIS territory.

The document was adopted in spite of Kim Baloyan's statement, the legislative commission head, that this fact will enable the citizens of Azerbaijan to come to Armenia without difficulty.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Press Center Reports Calm at Front

NC2709184293 Baku TURAN in English 1457 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Baku September 27 [TURAN]—As Press-Centre of Azerbaijan Defense Ministry reports, today at the first part of the day there was comparative calm at the front.

Separate firings of Azeri positions in neighbouring with Armenia Zangelanskiy, Tovus and Sadarak regions have been observed.

As it is known, in the result of the mission of the delegation of interparliamentary assembly of the CIS agreement on cease-fire in the region was prolonged till November 5 1993.

Assassination Attempt on Ex-Supreme Soviet Head

NC2709165793 Baku TURAN in English 1457 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Baku (September 27) (TURAN)—Yesterday between 21 and 22 o'clock there had been an attempt upon former chairman of Supreme Soviet, Chairman of Musavat party Isa Kamberov at the entrance of his house. Isa Kamberov's body-guards arrested a certain Mirzaaga [spelling as received]. As that person told he had served a jail term for 11 years for narcotizm and crimes concerned with drugs and robbery.

He had been found out cold steel (knife). As he told he had a debt for a great deal of money and even if he have killed Isa Kamberov, all the debits would have been pushed on him. He did not want to answer to whom he owed the money.

The criminal had been passed to the 16 police department of Nariman region of Baku. The bodies have started the inquiry.

Former Chief of Police of Kazakh Region Arrested

NC2709185293 Baku TURAN in English 1457 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] (September) (TURAN)—As TURAN agency was known [as received] by the sources close to the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic former Chief of Police of Kazakh region Isakhan Ashurov [spelling as received] was arrested yesterday. He had been appointed the Chief of the Police of Kazakh region under the government of the President Abulfaz Elchibey.

During Ganja developments he has backed constitutional power, interpreting Suret Guseynov's statement as military-state putsch. I. Ashurov and having fled Ganja prison commander of corps Isa Sadikhov [spelling as received] gathered armed forces loyal to the President Elchibey and have made a resistance to the putschist in Kazakh region June-July this year.

Defense Minister Mamedov Comments on Joining CIS

NC2709220093 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 Sep 93

[Text of interview with Azerbaijan Defense Minister Mamed Rasim Mamedov by Baku Radio correspondent Bashir Sharipov in Baku on 25 September—live or recorded]

[Text] [Sharipov] Azerbaijan has, at last, become a CIS member after lengthy arguments and debates. Important documents have been signed in Moscow. Azerbaijan has signed the agreement on collective security. Considering all that, will the inviolability of Azerbaijan's border be recognized? Will the prolonged war eventually end? Can you comment on all that?

[Mamedov] We refrained from joining the CIS for more than two years. Azerbaijan was accepted by the CIS as a member. That must be very useful for Azerbaijan in every respect. We must look to the future. We must wait for three or four days or a month to see what will happen. Each and every individual wants the war to end tomorrow. However, we must realize that we all have to work together to end the war. All the troops and all the people must help each other. Some people believe that since the defense minister has been appointed the war may end in a short time. That is right. I shall make preparations, organize training, and establish discipline. I shall see to it that the troops and officers fulfill their duties and execute their authority.

[Sharipov] Structuring is the most serious process in the Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

[Mamedov] Yes, structuring is important. We are preparing to block the Armenians when they attack us. We do not want to fight. We have the strength we need. However, we do not want to shed blood. We want to find a peaceful solution to the problems.

[Sharipov] We wish you and the other leaders in the Republic success in the peace talks. We also wish to inform you that the people will support you.

[Mamedov] Thank you. I am grateful for our people's support.

Georgia

Abkhaz Armed Forces Capture Sukhumi

Shevardnadze Statement on Fall

LD2709161193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1505 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Sep—This is a statement by Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze made by telephone.

"At 1300 today the city of Sukhumi was overrun by Russian, Chechen, and Abkhaz combatants who were armed to the teeth. With the help of tanks and APC's [armored personnel carriers], they took control of Sukhumi. This new barbaric action was again preceded by an agreement on a temporary cease-fire and resumption of talks. The invaders of Sukhumi killed hundreds of civilians, destroyed and burned houses, residential quarters. It proved impossible to evacuate all civilians from the city and their life is now in danger.

"Georgia, which has suffered a lot in the past, has become victim of another tragedy. The Georgian population of Abkhazia is being mercilessly exterminated. Georgia was defeated in a war against unequal forces, which was started, quoting the defense minister of one large country, in order to defend this country's strategic interests in Georgia. Imperial forces masterminded the conflict in Abkhazia, which led to the occupation of more than half the territory of Abkhazia.

"It was possible to save Sukhumi, even yesterday. Only Russia could have done this. We made such a request to Moscow. I sent a message to the Russian leadership agreeing to Georgia joining the CIS, something I had opposed up until then. I have agreed to the Russian defense minister's proposal to deploy additional troops in Abkhazia.

"In effect, Georgia was brought to its knees, but it was not enough. Unfortunately, I have to be honest and say that interests of outside forces would not have succeeded in harming us, had it not been for the internal strife and our countrymen's treason. The time will come when everybody and everything will receive their proper name. One of the reasons for the fall of Sukhumi is that an outside force has played well the card of a traitor. My comrade in arms and I are horrified at what has happened. God knows that I have been doing everything to avert this terrible day. I have failed. May I be forgiven by my contemporaries and my posterity."

Accuses Russia of Supporting Abkhazia.

LD2809150193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 28 TASS—Georgian state head Eduard Shevardnadze told a news conference here today a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin is no longer "expedient".

Shevardnadze repeated accusations in Russia's address claiming it supports "the Gudauta administration in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict".

'Power-Hungry Forces' Blamed for Fall

LD2709170893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1518 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Zurab Dvali, special correspondent of the Iprinda news agency, reports on the most recent events in Sukhumi.

[Dvali] This afternoon, the Georgian head of state circulated a statement, which says in part:

At 1300 on 27 September, Sukhumi was attacked by heavily armed Russian, Chechen, and Abkhazian gunmen who, with the help of armored hardware and armored vehicles took the town. Prior to this barbaric action there was an agreement on a cease-fire and the start of talks. The captors of Sukhumi have killed hundreds of residents and have destroyed and set fire to houses and residential districts. Long-suffering Georgia has once again become the site of yet another tragedy.

This conflict in Abkhazia was inspired by imperialist forces, Shevardnadze goes on, as a result of which half the territory of the autonomous republic has been occupied. Yesterday, Sukhumi could still have been saved, but only Russia could have done this. We made such a request to Moscow, the statement by the head of state reads. I sent a telegram to the Russian leadership in which I agreed to Georgia joining the CIS, something I was opposed to until just recently. I also agreed, Shevardnadze continued, to the proposals of the Russian defense minister to send additional armed forces into Georgia in connection with the conflict in Abkhazia. Georgia virtually went down on its knees but this was not enough.

Unfortunately, I have to say in all sincerity, noted Shevardnadze, that the interests of outside forces could not have caused such damage had it not been for the internal dissension and treachery of our fellow citizens. The time will come when the whole truth will come out. One of the reasons for the fall of Sukhumi is the fact that outside forces played the card of betrayal well.

Along with my comrades-in-arms, I am appalled by what has happened, the statement by the head of state reads. As God is my witness, I did my utmost to avoid this dreadful day. However, I was still unable to do so. May my contemporaries and my descendants forgive me.

Let me remind you that this was a statement by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state. According to the latest information, he intends to fly in the direction of Tbilisi, though there is a report that he may depart for a nearby region of Georgia.

It is now obvious that Shevardnadze and, likewise, the truly heroic defenders of Sukhumi, have been the victims of a plot. Forces that could have altered the situation remained in Ochamchirskiy Rayon the whole time, deliberately not coming to help, awaiting the fall of Sukhumi and thus the collapse of Shevardnadze as a politician and as head of state.

Unfortunately, units of the 1st Army Corps, of which Tengiz Kitovani is a commander, acted alongside supporters of Gamsakhurdia in a united front against Shevardnadze. Ajaria has been virtually idle, sending neither a single official formation, nor a single piece of hardware to Abkhazia. The plot is obvious, but thousands of totally innocent citizens and true patriots who rose up to defend their country have become its victims. Georgia today is experiencing one of its gloomiest days. And as has happened more than once in its history, this is the sad outcome of a plot between an outside enemy and power-hungry forces.

Abkhaz Official on Capture

LD2709132393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1246 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchogoleva]

[Text] Sochi September 27 TASS—An Abkhazian delegation, led by First Vice-Chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Sokrat Dzhindzholia, flew to Moscow from Sochi today. The delegation will then proceed to Geneva, where it is planned to hold Georgian-Abkhazian talks under United Nations aegis.

"Sukhumi's take over by Abkhazian troops is a practically settled matter," Press Secretary of the Chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Beslan Barganzhia told ITAR-TASS at Sochi airport today. "Fighting for some enclaves continued in the city today morning. A group of Georgian troops, surrounded in a new residential neighbourhood of the Abkhazian capital, surrendered on Sunday," he stated.

According to Barganzhia, Georgian troops were still offering resistance in Kelasuri district, Sukhumi's suburb, bordering on Gulripsha district. "However, from the strategical point of view this suburb is of no major significance," the press secretary believes.

"Today morning we received news that the flag of the Abkhazian republic was hoisted over the building of the Council of Ministers in Sukhumi," Barganzhia said.

Touching on the upcoming Geneva negotiations, the press secretary of the Abkhazian supreme soviet noted that the Abkhazian delegation planned to offer a ceasefire on the entire territory of the republic as of noon September 30. "We are ready to cease fire and to resolve all our problems at a conference table," he stressed.

Tbilisi: Fighting Continues

LD2709142493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1404 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The press center of the Ministry of Defensce told the CONTACT news agency that the situation in Sukhumi this afternoon has become extremely difficult.

The enemy managed to infiltrate certain parts of the central district of the city.

Fierce battles are continuing. There are huge losses on both sides. The situation is extremely grave and tense. Fighting is continuing on the approaches to the Kodori River.

'Fierce Battles' Reported at Kodori River

LD2709191793 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1900 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Ochamchire, 27 September—An Iberia correspondent got in touch with the Ochamchire military headquarters on the phone at 2100 and was told that at that moment fierce battles were taking place on the approaches to the Kodori river.

The headquarters refused to divulge any other information.

Abkhazians Reportedly Not in Total Control

LD2709195593 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1900 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 27 Sep—An IBERIA correspondent learned at the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry at 2100 that Abkhaz forces were not in total control of Sukhumi. The soldiers remaining in the town are controlling the Tsiteli bridge, the sea port, and the coastline.

'Localized Fighting' Continues

LD2809092793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The Georgian Defense Ministry press service reports that localized fighting is continuing in the Sukhumi suburbs. There have been no large-scale operations yet. The opposing sides are retaining their positions.

This report has been provided by the Contact news agency.

Abkhazians Continue Offensive

LD2809115193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1033 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 28 Sep—After taking Sukhumi, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Abkhazia are continuing the offensive right along the frontline, the press service of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. According to the information of the command of the eastern front, the Georgian side is concentrating considerable forces in Ochamchirskiy Rayon and is preparing to force a corridor through to the Kodori River. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Abkhazia are continuing to hold their positions.

According to the information of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet's press service, the 2d Army Corps of the Georgian Armed Forces numbering up to 12,000 men ceased operating as a result of yesterday's operation to capture Sukhumi. Armaments have been seized, including tanks, artillery pieces, and ammunition.

Press service officials are claiming that as they retreated Georgian troops set fire to the buildings of Government House, the Council of Ministers, and the TV Center. A group of Abkhaz television employees left for Sukhumi today to carry out an inspection of the TV Center. Officials of the law-enforcement bodies and other services of the Republic of Abkhazia have also moved from Gudauta to Sukhumi.

Tbilisi: Troops Retain Territory in Abkhazia

LD2809142293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1218 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Reports from Gudauta say that Georgian troops hold a 8-9 km-long coastal area between the Kelasuri and Kodori Rivers in the Gulripsha region and the coast from the village of Kindgi to the city of Ochamchira. Sukhumi Airport—near the village of Babushara, which is under the control of Georgian troops—is under constant fire and shelling by artillery. Since the morning of 28 September, fighting continues in the Ochamchira region where Georgian troops are trying to break the Abkhazian defense line and join the grouping now based in the Gulripsha region.

Shevardnadze Reportedly Evacuated From Sukhumi

Yeltsin Offers Help

LD2709122593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In a conversation with an IPRINDA Agency correspondent the head of the press center of the headquarters of the group of Russian troops stationed in the Transcaucasus reported that in connection with the critical situation in Abkhazia, particularly in Sukhumi, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Minister of Defense Pavel Grachev had indeed been in communication with Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, and had offered him help in getting out of the conflict zone. However, Shevardnadze had declined it. This morning Shevardnadze was contacted by the assistant commander of the group of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus with a similar offer, but Shevardnadze did not alter his decision.

TASS: Shevardnadze Leaves Sukhumi

LD2709124893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 27 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 27 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze abandoned his residence in Sukhumi and reportedly moved outside the besieged city after his borderguards insisted that he finds a safer place as the situation in the Abkhazian capital had sharply aggravated early on Monday.

The Abkhazian military command said it is ready to allow Shevardnadze leave Abkhazia. "The command of the armed forces of Abkhazia is ready to provide a possibility for the head of Georgia to move outside the limits of sovereign Abkhazia", the republican Foreign Ministry said in a statement received by TASS on Monday.

It added that Abkhazian armed units have "established control over the major part of Sukhumi".

Abkhazian formations blocked Shevardnadze's Sukhumi residence late on Sunday and Georgia appealed to Russia to help evacuate Shevardnaze, according to sources close to the Georgian leadership.

However, neither Russian military envoys in Tbilisi nor the press service of the Georgian head of state did confirm or deny the report so far.

It was not clear whether the Russian military had assisted Shevardnadze in leaving Sukhumi.

Reportedly in Gulripshskiy Rayon

LD2709145493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] As reported earlier, Abkhazian armed formations have gained complete control over the city of Sukhumi. According to latest reports, the head of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, is now in Gulripshskiy Rayon, the center of which is Gulripsh. This was reported by the press service of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Abkhazia. Gulripsh is 12km from Sukhumi.

The president of Russia had given instructions to the Ministry of Defense to provide maximum opportunity to facilitate the evacuation of Eduard Shevardnadze from Sukhumi, and this news was passed on for the information of the Georgian side.

SNARK: Shevardnadze Refuses To Leave

NC2709155293 Yerevan SNARK in English 1413 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, September 17 (SNARK)—"Shevardnadze refuses to leave Sukhumi and wants to die with the town", Georgian MP Vakhtang Goguadze [spelling as received] said today. "It is very seldom when a great person is to be killed and the world is looking at that. Shevardnadze is defending the town. But the enemy is much more stronger. Boris Yeltsin and Pavel Grachev are trying to persuade Shevardnadze to quit the town. But the Georgian leader is ready to die", the MP said to SNARK in an exclusive interview.

Answering to the question of Georgian entrance into the CIS, MP Vakhtang Goguadze said that "We are late. If Georgia would entered the CIS in proper time everything would be differ. It is our own guilt that we are isolated".

"There is nobody to blame but us,—the Georgian parliament speaker said,—and it is question of time whether we would join the CIS or not." [punctuation as received]

Supreme Council Meets on Shevardnadze Activities

Deputies Request Shevardnadze Return

LD2709181093 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1727 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 September—An Iberia correspondent reports that in connection with the capture of Sukhumi, deputies assembled in the Georgian Supreme Council building at 1900 today.

The deputies adopted an appeal to the head of state, in which they ask E. Shevardnadze to return to Tbilisi and continue to lead the country.

The meeting ended at 2015. The deputies are still in the Supreme Council building at the moment.

Deputies Demand Shevardnadze Return

LD2709205493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] The Georgian Supreme Council convened for a working meeting this evening. Iprinda agency correspondent Nikolay Mamulashvili reports that the deputies demanded that Eduard Shevardnadze return to Tbilisi. They also decided to appeal to international organizations to help evacuate civilians from Abkhazia.

The deputies demanded that the head of state use his emergency powers to stabilize the situation and called for all military commanders responsible for Georgian troops' defeat in Abkhazia to be punished.

Council Official: No Return Planned

LD2709220693 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1900 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 September—Today, by 2000, several thousand citizens had gathered in front of the Supreme Council building asking the deputies to inform them about the events that had developed in Abkhazia and Samegrelo.

The deputy speaker of the Supreme Council spoke to the people. He called on the anxious population for calm and informed it about the situation in Sukhumi. He said that Eduard Shevardnadze was still in Abkhazia and was not going to return. He also familiarized the population with the Supreme Council's appeal to the head of state.

Previously, in conversation with journalists, the deputy speaker stated: "The fact that the armed units supporting Gamsakhurdia did not paricipate properly in the defense of Sukhumi is tantamount to stabbing Georgia in the back."

TASS: Shevardnadze Returns to Tbilisi

LD2809070093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0638 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 28 Sep (GIA-TASS)—The Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, returned to Tbilisi at 9:00 [0600 GMT] this morning. He flew in on a civilian aircraft that was carrying wounded from Babushera airport near Sukhumi.

A GIA correspondent reported that under a provisional agreement Russian military aircraft were to fly to Sukhumi to collect Shevardnadze, but they failed to show up. On the way to Tbilisi the aircraft that the Georgian head of state did take ran out of fuel and had to make a forced landing at Batumi, after which it successfully flew on to Tbilisi.

According to the Georgian Defense Ministry, battles are continuing in and around Sukhumi. Babushera airport and a number of strategically important sites are under the control of Georgian troops.

Pro-Tbilisi Abkhazian Leader Killed After Capture

LD2809104993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—Zhiuli Shartava, the prime minister of the pro-Georgian government of Abkhazia, was killed in the city of Gudauta after he was taken prisoner by Abkhazians during the seizure of Sukhumi on Monday, TASS learned today from the Georgian Embassy in Russia.

The embassy said the murder happened despite assurances of Abkhazian rebel leader Vladislav Ardzinba, based in Gudauta, who told Russian Deputy foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov on Monday that Shartava will be transferred to the Russian border city of Adler.

Sukhumi-Ochamchire Rail, Road Links Nearly Restored

LD2809095293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] An eastern front coordinating council has been formed in the Ochamchire region. Deputy Prime Minister Avtandil Margiani will head this council.

In a telephone conversation with a Sakinform correspondent, Ochamchire Governor Khuta Guguchia, deputy head of the council, has said that the council is taking all measures to resolve economic issues in the region.

The railway between Sukhumi and Ochamchire has now been restored. The repair work was carried out by the Railway Transport Department, with the personal participation of its head, Reno Vashakidze.

Extensive work is going on to repair the road. Almost all bridges have been restored. The road has been cleared. The only bridge that is still to be repaired is in the village of Kinghi. After that, both rail and road communications will be in full working order.

Communications Minister Pridon Injia and Tamaz Salaridze, first deputy chairman of the Georgian energy department, are in charge of the work to restore telephone and power lines, which will be completed in the immediate future.

The region, where many fighters are stationed today, is being constantly supplied with flour and other foodstuffs. All rayons in Georgia are taking part in the humanitarian aid campaign to help our soldiers.

At the end of the conversation, Guguchia, thanked all the rayons that are sharing their last resources with the defenders of the native land.

Gamsakhurdia Calls For Shevardnadze's Resignation

AU2709134093 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 27 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia by Brigitte Voykowitsch in Groznyy "shortly before his return to his homeland": "Shevardnadze Must Go"]

[Text] [Voykowitsch] Why are your armed supporters supporting the Georgian Government in its fight against the Abkhazians?

[Gamsakhurdia] You are not using the correct terminology. "My supporters" are the troops of the legitimate government and the legitimate president. The so-called "government troops" are putschists and troops of the illegal self-proclaimed "government." My troops are independently fighting for Georgia's territorial integrity. They are defending the Georgian people against the Abkhazian separatists.

[Voykowitsch] Does this employment of your troops not mean indirect support for Eduard Shevardnadze all the same?

[Gamsakhurdia] Shevardnadze usurped power in Georgia by a coup and illegal, fraudulent elections. He even dissolved his own parliament, declared a state of emergency in the country, tightened censorship, and closed down opposition newspapers only recently. He is suppressing his people and is ruling with an iron hand. I call on him to resign.

[Voykowitsch] How can the present crisis in Georgia be solved?

[Gamsakhurdia] Shevardnadze and his illegal regime must go. The legitimate constitution and government must be reestablished. The legitimate president must return. The West must back me and the legal parliament. There is no other solution for Georgia.

[Voykowitsch] How do you want to return to power?

[Gamsakhurdia] I want to save my country by civil disobedience and resistance to the criminal communist-dictatorial regime.

[Voykowitsch] What role will Russia play in the settlement of the Georgian civil war?

[Gamsakhurdia] Russia is pursuing its own interests in the Caucasus. But I want to trust the democratic forces in Russia to permit a normalization in my homeland and in the relations between our two states.

Issues Appeal to Nation

LD2709135593 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1230 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] Zugdidi, 27 Sep—An IBERIA correspondent in Zugdidi has sent us the text of Zviad Gamsakhurdia's appeal to the Georgian nation. The appeal says:

"Dear compatriots, brothers and sisters: I, the legitimate president of Georgia, have returned to my native land and am carrying on with my duties to the nation. I have been watching the critical situation in Georgia. I could not have been outside Georgia at a time like this. I arrived not only to perform my duties as president, but also to lead a national salvation movement.

"Brothers and sisters: At issue is our nation's survival and at a time like this we should be careful and responsible. I have not come to spark off a civil war or to punish anyone. My objective is to unite the nation and to achieve national reconciliation. If the opposite side admits its mistakes and repents its crimes against the people, I will be ready to stretch out my hand. If the illegal authorities show common sense and resign, I will be ready to call new elections, after consultations with the Supreme Council. Everyone will be given guarantees of immunity, according to circumstances [as received].

"Many of you will probably wish to know why my return was delayed. Friends, this happened because I met a multitude of obstacles, which were difficult to overcome. But finally, the time has come when I managed to be with you again.

"A campaign must be launched in Georgia today to rescue the nation, defend the country's territorial integrity, revitalize our economy and revive the Georgian spirit.

"Long live our struggle for the rescue of Georgia! Congratulations on the restoration of the legitimate authorities! Glory to the Georgian nation!

"[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia, 25 September 1993."

UN Spokeswoman Announces Postponement of Peace Talks

AU2809104093 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, Sept 28 (AFP)—Talks to try to resolve the conflict in the Georgian autonomous region of Abkhazia due to begin in two days here have been postponed indefinitely in view of the current situation there, a U.N. spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Therese Gastaut was alluding to the fall Monday of Sukhumi, the regional capital, into the hands of Abkhazians fighting for independence from Georgia.

However, Gastaut added, the United Nations secretariat in New York and the U.N. special envoy for Georgia, Edouard Brunner, were working on fixing a new date for the talks.

The talks were first scheduled for September 13 but had already been postponed once because of an escalation in the fighting between the Georgian army and the Abkhazians.

Abkhazia To Propose Cease-Fire From Noon 30 Sep

LD2809032293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] Following the capture of Sukhumi, the Abkhaz side intends to put forward a proposal for a cease-fire from noon on 30 September. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this in Gudauta by the press secretary of the Abkhaz parliament. This proposal will be raised during the forthcoming talks with the Georgian side, which will be held in Geneva under the aegis of the UN. The Abkhaz delegation is being headed by Sokrat Dzhidzholia, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

Ready To Observe Cease-Fire

LD2809153693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] The Presidium of the Abkhaz parliament has announced its readiness to cease combat operations in the zone of the Georgian- Abkhaz conflict and to abide once more by the cease-fire agreement signed in Sochi on 27 July. A statement which was issued today says that the resumption of hostilities on 16 September was the result of the Georgian side's failure to observe the agreement.

Black Sea Fleet To Transport Abkhaz Refugees

LD2809093393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 28 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—Ships of the Black Sea Fleet are expected to carry out the third consecutive rescue operation for taking the peaceful population out of the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, ITAR-TASS learned at the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet.

The evacuation of refugees and the wounded has been scheduled to take place south of the port of Sukhumi where some 100,000 people have gathered according to unofficial reports.

During the two previous rescue operations conducted by four ships of the Black Sea Fleet on September 26-27, a total of 10,970 people, predominantly women, old-age people, children and the wounded, had been evacuated to a safe zone.

UN Secretary General Sends Letter to Shevardnadze

LD2709173093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Text] A letter from the UN secretary general to Eduard Shevardnadze:

Dear chairman,

Yesterday I received your worrying letter of 22 September. For some weeks now I have been very worried about the danger facing you and your country. I have done everything I can, both personally and through the representative extraodinary Ambassador Brunner, in order to mobilize international efforts directed at a cease-fire and a start to political dialogue. Ambassador Brunner was able to convince the Abkhazian side and the Russian Federation to take part in negotiations in Geneva, which are due to be held under the aegis of the UN [United Nations] at the end of this week. The members of the Security Council ascribe great significance to these negotiations, and as is known they link the sending of UN observers to Abkhazia with a cease-fire and the progress of political consultations.

I think it important that Georgia sends a delegation to these negotiations and I insistently ask you for this. These negotiations will facilitate the direct participation of international organizations in restoring peace in your country. The agenda and format of the negotiations has not yet been established, and I have asked Mr. Brunner to display (?flexibility), taking into consideration your [word indistinct].

[Signed] Yours sincerely,

Butros Butros-Ghali.

Joining CIS Not Seen as Beneficial to Georgia

NC2709160593 Yerevan SNARK in English 1413 GMT 27 Sep 93

["Joining to the CIS Would Not Give Anything to Georgia"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Tbilisi, September 27 (SNARK)—"Georgia would not get anything if joined to the CIS. And all the same we wouldn't be accepted to the CIS", Georgian

parliament press secretary Ramin Chelidze [spelling as received] said to SNARK. According to his words, Georgia is about the last point and Russia had not left any hope for Georgia. The press secretary believes that a third side rules the processes in Georgia. And because of that the Abkhazians and the Georgians are regret that they are "drawn into the mire".

In Chelidze's opinion, long time is needed to make these two people live together in peace.

Estonia

Bomb Explodes at U.S. Embassy in Tallinn

LD2809092593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] There was a powerful explosion outside the US Embassy building in Tallinn early this morning, at about five o'clock Moscow time. We have no details thus far, and the embassy has not issued any statement. But what is known is that nobody was hurt. However, the embassy's satellite communications center was seriously damaged, although the ordinary phones are working. Doors and windows were blown out at the embassy, as were windows in nearby buildings.

This all happened immediately following a meeting in Washington between President Clinton and presidents of the three Baltic countries.

Another interesting fact is that there was another powerful explosion early yesterday morning in Tallinn in a large food shop. Again, nobody was hurt.

Blast Termed 'Political'

LD2809112393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] As already reported this morning, an explosion occurred at the back of the U.S. Embassy in Kentmanni street at 0345. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the explosion yet; nor were any prior warnings given to the embassy. A powerful explosion damaged a cable box for the satellite dish attached to the embassy building and a major part of the surrounding windows. There were no casualties.

BNS was told by the Interior Ministry's press service that the motives for the crime were presumably political, inasmuch as the explosion took place at a time when the Baltic states' presidents were meeting the U.S. president and speaking at a session of the UN General Assembly.

The police assume that a time bomb had been fixed to the base of the dish. The dish itself was on the roof of a garage. It is an unfortunate dish, because it was stolen a while ago and only later returned to the embassy.

Economic Reform Minister Meets Czech Foreign Minister

LD2409203693 Prague CTK in English 1805 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, Sept 24 (CTK)—Estonia wants its people to participate in privatisation by means of the coupon method, Estonian Minister for Economic Reform Liia Hanio told Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec today.

Estonia is Zieleniec's final stop on his four-day official tour of the Baltics. He is to return home tomorrow.

Estonia wants to proceed the same way as the Czech Republic did. In this way people have an opportunity to make up their own minds in the economic matters. It will also help establish the securities market and system of investment funds, Hanio said.

Reform in Estonia is being carried out by very capable people with a very clear idea about it, as in the Czech Republic. The changes are widespread and the results are evident, Zieleniec told journalists.

The two countries decided to conclude an agreement on the prevention of double taxation and on investment protection. They discussed the possible creation of a bilateral free-trade zone and its extension to other states of the Visegrad Group Slovakia, Hungary and Poland.

They also agreed on a regular air connection between the Czech Republic and Estonia, which is already operating between the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Latvia.

Estonia confirmed its support of the Czech Republic's candidacy for non-permanent UN Security Council membership and asked, in turn, the Czech Republic for its support of Estonian GATT membership. The Czech Republic promised its support.

Estonia has proved that it fully deserves GATT membership, Zieleniec said.

For financial reasons, the two countries will not yet establish diplomatic offices in Prague and Tallinn.

The Czech Republic is, however, very interested in the opening of the Czech centre in Tallinn which could serve as an incentive to cooperation and knowledge, Zieleniec stated.

Zieleniec also met with Estonian President Lennart Meri today.

Head of Defense Forces Returns From Visit to Norway

WS2709151993 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1749 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tallinn, September 24—Aleksander Einseln, the head of Estonian Defence Forces arrived back from Norway on Friday [24 September], where he took part in a three-day conference on the security of Northern-Europe and the Baltic States.

At the conference, as well as during the preceding NATO maneuvres that took place in Denmark on September 15-17, where General Einseln participated as an observer, the problems of security of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were discussed, Defence Forces Headquarters press service told ETA. Cooperation between the Baltic States and NATO is a guarantee for the security of Estonia, General Einseln has said.

Latvia

Czech Foreign Minister Meets Leaders, Signs Accords

AU2409133393 Prague CTK in English 0717 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Riga Sep 22 (CTK)—The Czech and Latvian foreign ministers, Josef Zieleniec and Georgs Andreyevs, signed an agreement on trade and commercial relations and scientific and technological cooperation today.

Zieleniec arrived in Riga today. During his September 22-25 tour of the Baltics he will also visit Lithuania and Estonia.

They also signed an agreement on visa-free relations between the two countries.

Andreyevs said that he considered the Czech Republic and the other states of the Visegrad Group—Hungary, Poland and Slovakia—to be models regarding rapprochement with Western Europe.

He told CTK that, at the moment, the behaviour of some 30,000 Russian troops based in Latvia did not arouse fear. No suspect moves have occurred in connection with the current political turmoil in Moscow, he added.

We hope that the statement by Russian Defence Minister Grachev that the army still supports properly elected President Yeltsin is true. We have not recorded any evidence contradicting this in Latvia, Andreyevs stated.

Zieleniec was received by Latvian President Gundis Ulmanis today.

After the talks, Ulmanis told CTK that he believed that the democratic orientation and democratic forces in Russia must win. If not, Ulmanis said, it would be a disaster for Russia, and not only for Russia.

He expressed his trust in the common sense of the Russian people that should not, after the experience of the past 70 years, allow military confrontation and civil war.

Ulmanis announced that Latvian authorities had agreed with Moscow today that the Russian troops based in the country would not be involved in any events connected with politics.

Zieleniec called a great success Latvia's support of the Czech Republic's candidacy for non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council, announced by Latvian President Gundis Ulmanis today.

For Latvia, it was no easy decision because it preferred the Czech Republic to its neighbour Belarus, said Zieleniec.

Latvia is greatly interested in the Czech method of economic reform, Zieleniec stated.

We are a sort of a model for Latvians. They are considering to set on the same path of rapid reform and extensive privatisation, he said.

Zieleniec called promising the Czech Republic's participation in the modernisation of the emerging Latvian Army as both countries would benefit from it.

He said that he would report to the Czech arms producers about Latvia's interest in Czech weapons.

Further on Meeting Leaders

LD2309153793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Excerpt] A one-day visit to Latvia by Josef Zieleniec, the foreign minister of the Czech Republic, ended today. Yesterday afternoon immediately after his arrival in Riga, he met Georgs Andrejevs, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Latvia, State President Guntis Ulmanis, and Andrejs Krastins, associate chairman of the Saeima. Agreements on cooperation in trade, economy, science, and engineering, as well as on the establishment of a mutual visa-free regime were signed at the meeting with Georgs Andrejevs. [passage omitted]

Mutual Political Support Stated

AU2709132293 Prague CTK in English 1257 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Vilnius Sep 23 (CTK)—Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec ended his stay in Latvia this morning and came for an official visit to Lithuania, CTK reports.

Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs confirmed to CTK at Riga Airport that the Latvian Sejm (parliament) decided on Wednesday [22 September] to support the Czech Republic's candidacy for a place as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

Andrejevs said it was in the interests of such small countries as Latvia and the Czech Republic to help each other in international organisations. He voiced the firm belief that the Czech Republic would support Latvia's acceptance to the Council of Europe when the question became urgent.

In Vilnius, Zieleniec started his stay with a visit to a cemetery in Antakalnis District, where he laid wreaths on the tombs of the victims of Soviet Army's interference in the Lithuanian capital in January 1991. [passage omitted]

After visiting the cemetery, Zieleniec started talks with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

Lithuania

Czech Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD2309174193 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1600 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Czech Foreign Minister Jiri Zieleniec moved from Latvia to Lithuania today, where a full program was again waiting for him. Our colleague from CTK, Karel Bartak, has sent us the following despatch from Vilnius:

[Bartak] Talks with President Algirdas Brazauskas, Speaker Ceslovas Jursenas, and Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys focused on bilateral relations and on the situation in Russia—in particular on Russia's influence on both countries. President Brazauskas put his full weight behind the course of action taken in Russia by Boris Yeltsin and said that only the democratic election of a new parliament will be able to resolve the intolerable situation prevailing in the country; that is, de facto rule from two centers. If the development in Russia is to be reversed in an undesirable direction, this would spell extreme danger for Lithunia because Russian Army units are stationed all around—in the Kaliningrad region, in Latvia, and in Belarus.

As in Riga yesterday, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed in Vilinius today a framework economic agreement and discussed specific economic cooperation, including possible arms deliveries. Bringing closer together the free trade zones that are emerging on the one hand among the states of the Visegrad Group and on the other between Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia was also the subject of discussions. Lithuanian representatives made no secret of their admiration for Czech economic reform and their resolve to draw on our experiences.

Meets With Leaders

AU2709134693 Prague CTK in English 1624 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Vilnius Sep 23 (CTK)—There are no essential differences between the political philosophies of the Czech Republic and Lithuania, chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Ceslovas Jursenas, told CTK today.

Above all, we are Europeans and we are heading in a similar direction. Different attitudes to some internal aspects are unessential from the standpoint of our mutual cooperation. They do not divide us, he added.

Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec, currently on an official visit to Lithuania, said that Lithuanian foreign policy was abiding to exactly defined national interests, which were independent of the ideological orientation of the government party. Almost all forces represented in the parliament agree on this line, and the Czech Republic can thus expect good political cooperation, Zieleniec said.

Lithuanian representatives expressed their respect for the economic reform carried out in the Czech Republic, considering it a source of inspiration and experience for their homeland.

Jursenas said that Lithuania was aware that the Czech Republic was ahead regarding economic development, but also saw a resemblance between the problems solved by the two countries. He said he hoped that Lithuania could become closer to the Visegrad Group—the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia—which could serve as a good way to penetrate in Europe.

If all participants of the Visegrad process were of the same opinion, it would be positive for us. However, practical steps would have to be comprehensively negotiated, Jursenas said.

During his visit to Lithuania, Zieleniec also met with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys and members of the Foreign Committee of the country's parliament.

Lithuania is the second stop on Zieleniec's four-day trip to the three Baltic republics (September 22-25).

Economic Accords Signed

AU2709144293 Prague CTK in English 1801 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Vilnius Sep 23 (CTK)—Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec and his Lithuanian counterpart, Povilas Gylys, signed a preliminary agreement on trade economic relations and scientific and technological cooperation here today.

Zieleniec is on a four-day official tour of the Baltics. He visited Latvia yesterday, will visit Estonia on Friday [24 September] and return to Prague on Saturday.

After the ceremonial signing, Zieleniec told journalists that the agreement was the basis of an agreement system which was necessary to build between the Czech Republic and Lithuania. The Czech side has also offered Lithuania the speedy conclusion of agreements on the protection of investment and on limiting double taxation.

The two ministers also spoke about the possibility of joining the free trade zones being created among the Visegrad Group states the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland with those emerging among Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Zieleniec said that communication between these two groups would be a condition for improving trade relations and a way of preventing protectionism.

The Lithuanian side was reserved on the matter of supporting the Czech Republic's candidacy for non-permanent membership on the UN Security Council. The Lithuanians noted their special relationship with neighbouring Belarus,

which is also a candidate for the seat. On Wednesday [22 September], Latvia expressed its unconditional support for the Czech Republic's candidacy.

Zieleniec said that Lithuania was very interested in economic cooperation with the Czech Republic. We are in many ways an attractive partner, because our products are known here and our prices are more advantageous than those of comparable Western products. The Baltic states are also interested in diversifying their trade, which is awkwardly and unilaterally oriented towards Russia, he said.

The main obstacle to the exchange of goods, he said, was the insufficiency of convertible currency and of raw materials in the Baltics.